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William Ward
Faringdon
1796

Wm. Ward
A
J O U R N A L
O F T H E
BLOCKADE AND SIEGE
O F
G I B R A L T A R.

FROM THE
TWELFTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1779,
TO THE
TENTH OF MARCH 1783.

CONTAINING
A MINUTE DETAIL OF THE MEMORABLE
AND INTERESTING TRANSACTIONS,
NAVAL AND MILITARY OBSERVATIONS;
INTERSPERSED WITH
HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS OF THE GARRISON,
GENUINE AND ENTERTAINING
A N E C D O T E S, &c. &c.

BY SAMUEL ANCELL,
SERGEANT AND CLERK TO THE 58TH REGIMENT.

WRITTEN IN THE GARRISON.

THE FOURTH EDITION.

Cork:

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AND

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1793.

22 j 423



TO HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN FANE,

Earl of Westmorland,

LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL,

AND

GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND;

GRAND MASTER

OF THE

ORDER OF St. PATRICK.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

THE following Sheets, containing the
Events of the late memorable SIEGE of
GIBRALTA R, written by a SOLDIER,
during the continuance of the *Blockade* and
Bombardment, in the intervals of rest from
Public Duty, are,

With the most profound Respect,

INSCRIBED BY

Your EXCELLENCY's

Most obedient humble Servant,

KILKENNY,
12th Feb. 1793.

Samuel Ancell,
SERJEANT, 58TH REGT.

TO THE READER.

THE great indulgence the following Letters have experienced from a generous Public, demand the AUTHOR's most warm and grateful Acknowledgments ; who feels himself happy in having the opportunity to THANK the numerous patronizers of his Labours.

IT were needless to offer an Apology, after the candid reception the Work has been favoured with ; yet, as many will peruse this Edition, who had not the opportunity of inspecting the former, it is necessary to mention, that at the Time of inditing they were not intended for the Press, nor would they have been presented to the Public, but from repeated solicitation.—Importunity prevailed.—The recital of the various Occurrences, and momentous Events, as they were *written* and *felt* amidst all the rage of War, Hurry, and Confusion, made their first appearance at *Liverpool* in

in 1784, and experienced a successful and rapid Sale, notwithstanding their want of that elegance of Diction, which works of *labour* and *study* are embellished with.

THIS testimony of PUBLIC APPROBATION has induced the AUTHOR (the first Writer, and who has not borrowed or copied from other Publications) to continue them in their *Original Stile*, and to submit this Edition to the CANDOUR of his Readers; who, it is hoped, will overlook any *inaccuracies* they may meet with, especially when they consider, that a Soldier's business is DISCIPLINE, and not LITERARY FAME.

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A N

AUTHENTIC JOURNAL

O F T H E

BLOCKADE and SIEGE

O F

G I B R A L T A R.

L E T T E R I.

Gibraltar. 1779

DEAR BROTHER,

I SHOULD think myself wanting in affection and gratitude did I not favour you with the particulars of evey thing deserving notice, during the approaching siege ; but from the duty

1779 duty of a soldier, (being mostly under arms, or with working parties,) many matters of a trifling nature, probably may escape my knowledge ; do not therefore expect this Journal to be elaborately filled with trivial daily occurrences, but depend upon receiving a full account of every transaction of a public nature ; such as the enemy's motions, firings, vessels engaged, taken, escaped, failed, arrived, batteries erected, destroyed, &c. &c.

12th. A council of war being held yesterday at the *Convent*, at which the field officers and naval commanders assisted, it was resolved unanimously to commence a cannonade on the *Spanish* works ; and accordingly this morning, (having previously withdrawn our advanced guards from *Bay Side*, and *Forbes's*) we opened our batteries on the enemy, beginning at *Rock Gun*, down to the *Mole Head*, employing every piece of ordnance that could possibly bear upon them. An officer's lady,* whom curiosity had excited to our batteries, was encouraged to discharge the first gun ; and having taken a lighted match, (with an intrepidity not peculiar to the sex) *General Elliott* pronounced, in a true heroic strain, “*Britons strike home*,” and immediately every battery and angle bellowed with rage, and vomited forth the most tremendous flames.

At the first discharge our shot dropped short, so that their advanced guards had time to escape to their lines, and their precipitate retreat almost

* The Lady of Lieut. Skinner, Engineer.

almost occasioned a general laugh, to view the 1779 *Dons* tumbling one over another as they fled Sept. from the showers of shot. When the enemy had reached their lines, we gave more elevation to our guns, and *Fort Barbara* and *St. Philippe* received a heavy cannonade, nor were any part of the *Spanish* lines neglected. As I came up the street about two hours after, from *Waterport*, (having been the preceding day and night on duty at that post) I could not but remark the timidity and fearful apprehension pictured on the countenance of the inhabitants, as they minutely expected a furious return from the enemy. The *Jews* and *Jewesses* exhibited the most descriptive amazement; terror had taken such possession of their minds, that they sought shelter at the southward, leaving their houses and effects, (except such as were of convenient carriage) exposed to the dangers that must have ensued, had the enemy opened upon the town. About four in the afternoon we began to throw shells* into their forts, and the enemy, who had secured some indifferent retreat from our shot, now found themselves most inconveniently annoyed, as we often perceived that their guards and parties were thrown into disorder.

A heavy and incessant fire all night. The 13th. enemy appear to be in motion; and our expectations lead us to imagine, that, about noon they

* A round piece of cast iron, some of 8 and a half, 10 and 12 inches diameter, hollow in the inside, by which they are charged, and a fuze drove in at the mouth, of different lengths, according to the distance the shell is intended to be discharged. When the fuze burns to the powder, the shell immediately bursts with great fury.

1779 they will return the compliment. The fearful inhabitants, who sheltered at the southward, Sept. 13th. cannot be persuaded to return, but seem happy in their minds, that they are out of the reach of the foe. It was observed to-day that their fortshave received some damage from our firings.

The enemy have not made a return. The uneasiness of the people seem less predominant, and some have ventured to return to their habitations in town. The foe are very busy ; they are encamped at the foot of *Santa Roque*, to a great number, with some squadrons of horse ; they appear to be about 16,000 men, including the *Catalan* troops ; they are beginning to carry fascines * and gabions † to their lines, so that it is beyond dispute they mean to return the fire. When we first received the account, (June 21st) from Gen. *Mendoza*, commandant at *Santa Roque*, of the commencement of hostilities between their Catholic and Britannic majesties, it occasioned a general rumour in the garrison ; the Governor and principal officers assembled on the *Grand-Parade*, and every tongue was employed in delivering their opinions. Our advanced guards and lines were reinforced, and detachments of the piquets sent to the weakest places, as we concluded that the enemy would endeavour to surprise the place.

Hostilities

* Wood cut from trees, and bound in bundles, or hoop sticks well soaked in water.

† Pieces of timber, bound with iron hoops, like a cask, and the inclosed part, when placed on a battery, is filled with earth.

Hostilities being thus commenced, General ¹⁷⁷⁹ Sept. Elliott, with the advice of the naval commander, issued letters of marque to several privateers in this Port, who immediately went out and captured some small prizes with wine, brandy, and other necessaries, that probably may be much wanted. On the 26th of July, Admiral *Don Barcello*, with two line of battle ships, two frigates, one xebec, and several gallies, anchored off *Cabritta Point*, to keep the Port blockaded. Our cruizers were under the necessity of returning to the bay, and are now laid up, as the enemy are ever watchful of their motions, and our force is too weak to offer an opposition. It is currently reported that *Spain's* intention is to oblige us to surrender by famine; you may therefore conclude, that while the enemy remain masters of the Straits, our situation will be exceedingly disagreeable, and we shall be greatly necessitated for refreshment.

Our Governor is indefatigable in improving the works, particularly those on the heights of the hill, which are most convenient to annoy the enemy, and prevent their approaches.

The enemy are very assiduous; many working parties employed, but we cannot form any judgment of what they are doing. This day a séttee,* that seemly stood for the bay, (wind West) was conducted by Admiral *Barcello's* cruizers to *Algaziras*:— This circumstance makes us rather uneasy, as we are apprehensive that many more will share the same fate. This day a serjeant and a Ha-
B noverian

* A Market Boat.

1779 neverian private, deserted, notwithstanding
 Sept. our shot they escaped to the Spanish lines.
 30th.

The enemy are quiet, but continue a sharp look out in the Gut. This day Admiral *Barcello*'s ship was dressed with a variety of colours, and a salvo fired. He rides most magnificently, exulting over a people shut up like poultry in a coop. He is so vain, and so prepossessed with the prospect of our capitulating, that he has ordered each officer under his command, to wear the key of the Straits, with a ribbon pendent from the breast. We may expect the next month will furnish more important intelligence. Whatever happens (if I survive) you may depend upon receiving a minute and circumstantial account, from

Your's affectionately,

LETTER II.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1779 **F**A R distant from every endearing friend,
 Oct. 9. and the social joys of fellowship, I again
 take my pen to write to you. Nothing ma-
 terial has happened since my last. The enemy
 are exceedingly assiduous at work, and we are
 constantly playing upon their parties with can-
 non. Admiral *Barcello*, with the strictest vi-
 gilance, watches the Gut, and some of his
 cruisers are mostly stretching from *Ceuta* to
Cabritta Point, to guard the Offing. We have
 not received any supplies or intelligence, nor
 have

have we observed a ship, boat, or settee, from 1779 East to West, endeavour to make the Port Oct. 9. Every thing is getting to so exorbitant a price, that it is almost impossible for a person of a moderate income to purchase what is requisite for sustenance.

This day, a twenty-four pounder was dragged up the face of the Rock to *Midshipman's look-out*, or *Rock-Gun*; the labour and danger attending it is not to be conceived, in the conveyance over the rugged Rock, to a height of 1357 feet.

The Enemy's Force now consists of

AT ALGAZIRAS,

| | guns. | men. | | guns. | men. |
|-----------|-------|------|---------|-------|------|
| 1 ship | 70 | 700 | 1 xebec | 32 | 250 |
| 1 frigate | 36 | 300 | 1 ditto | 28 | 200 |

AT CEUTA,

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----|-----|---------|----|------|
| 1 ship | 60 | 600 | 1 xebec | 20 | 180. |
| 1 frigate | 26 | 250 | 1 ditto | 14 | 80. |
| 1 xebec | 18 | 200 | | | |

CONSTANTLY CRUIZING,

| | | | | |
|----------------|----|------|-------------------|------|
| 1 xebec | 16 | 100 | 6 quarter galleys | 450. |
| 4 smaller | | 240 | 20 armed boats | 300. |
| 6 half-galleys | | 1000 | | |

ON OUR SIDE ARE AT ANCHOR,

| | | | | | |
|------------|----|-----|-----------|----|-------|
| Panther | 60 | 400 | Gibraltar | 12 | 40. |
| Enterprize | 28 | 200 | Fortune | 10 | 30. |
| Childers | 14 | 90 | | | |
| | | | B. 2. | | Last. |

1779. Last night the enemy were excessively hard Oct. at work, our batteries poured upon them a 20th. liberal distribution of shells, notwithstanding which, they completed their operations, and this morning exhibited to our view three new batteries, two of fourteen, and one of seven guns, constructed for playing upon our lines at *Lamport* and *Waterport*.

30th. No prospect of relief. We begin to think *Britain* has forgot that such people are in existence. The enemy are quiet, but exceeding watchful, and labour much at their approaches. We cannot form any judgment of what they are doing. Our batteries continue the cannonade.

This day the *Peace* and *Plenty* privateer, being chased to the eastward by a frigate and two row gallies, wind at S. E. was unfortunately driven ashore between the *Devil's Tower* and *Fort Barbara*. Our batteries commenced a brisk cannonade on the Fort, and dismounted several of their guns, but notwithstanding, the enemy poured into her a prodigious quantity of round and grape shot. The boatswain had his right thigh shot off, and died soon after. The captain finding it impossible to get her off the bed of sand where she had run aground, and grape shot pouring in a continual shower from the enemy's batteries, he and the crew (having taken out a few things) abandoned her, and came in at *Landport*. She was detached by General *Murray*, from *Minorca*, to view our situation, and to learn if any supplies were come from *England*. She had taken several prizes to the eastward, and relates

relates that the troops at *Minorca* are in good 1779 health, and want nothing but clothing. Oct.

Fort Barbara kept all night a fire upon the 31st. unfortunate privateer, her hull and rigging is so greatly shattered, that she will never be fit for sea again. The enemy seem to be making preparations for a vigorous attack ; they have begun forming several bomb batteries. Our fire is without intermission. Several of our howitzer * shells fell among their working parties, and killed a great number. General *Elliott* continues to increase the fortifications ; and working parties from each regiment in the garrison, are employed in erecting traverses † in different parts of the streets to shelter the troops and inhabitants from the enemy's shot. We have not received any supplies either from *England*, *Portugal*, *Tangier*, *Tetuan*, or *Minorca*, nor has a ship appeared standing for the Bay but the *Peace and Plenty*. The Spanish cruizers keep hovering in the Offing. We wait the arrival of a fleet with impatience.

Yours &c.

* A piece of ordnance mounted on a carriage like a cannon, which discharges shells in any direction.

† Casks filled with earth, placed three deep, and at sufficient height to cover the head.

LETTER III.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1779 Nov. 1. THE enemy last night fired a carcass[†] into the privateer which run aground the 30th ult. and in a few hours she was consumed. The enemy continue to work, and we continue to fire. Provision is getting extravagant-ly dear and scarce: fish and flour are the chief support of the inhabitants. A small string of fish, about the size of a large sprat, eight in number, cost upwards of two shillings English.

This day the bakers shut their doors, and delivered their bread through a wicket, protected by a guard, as the crowds were so press-ing, they were under the apprehension of their houses being pulled down; the flour they have in hand will not last, according to com-putation, more than two months. *Antonio Smilie* (a noted Genoese baker) assured me, he had only eighteen barrels of flour to serve himself, family, and the public. The Governor has ordered them to bake but a stipulated quantity daily, which is not half the supply required by the garrison.

It is really grievous to see the fighting of the people for a morsel of bread, at a price not to be credited by those who never knew the hardship of a siege. Men wrestling, women intreating,

† An iron case with four holes in it, to let out the flames, about the size of a bomb shell, charged with com-bustibles for setting houses and ships on fire, discharged out of mortars.

intreating, and children crying ; a jargon of 1779 all languages piteously pouring forth their Nov. complaints. The tear of sensibility is copiously shed, and commiseration mutually exchanged. What a situation ! where humanity is deprived of the ability to alleviate the innumerable wants of old and young. When our distresses will end, time alone can unfold.

Many of the women and children returned from the baker's this morning, without being able to procure the smallest relief, and those who did, obtained it by forcing the timid and weaker part of the applicants away. A soldier is strictly forbidden to attend the delivery, except when ordered there on duty ; so that his family must be subsisted on his very scanty allowance, if his wife or children should not be fortunate to get a loaf, which in our present situation is an agonizing difficulty. The bread is made from wheat ground without sifting, oatmeal, and ground peas ; and when baked resembles a brick bat. For one of these small loaves (bad and gritty as they are, and in size not bigger than a halfpenny roll) we must pay an English shilling.

This day arrived a Spanish two-decker from 6th. the West, and anchored between *Cabritta* and the battery at *Algizaras*. Several small craft also arrived.

The enemy are quiet, but busily employed at work at their bomb batteries. This afternoon a Spanish frigate sailed from *Algaziras* to *Ceuta*.

This morning we observed the enemy had recalled their working parties from the lines, and that they were forming fortifications, extending

1779 Nov. tending from *Fort St. Phillippe* to *Point Negro*, as a defence and cover for their camp ; this gives us the alluring hope, that they have some intimation of our fleet being at sea. Our batteries are not idle, but keep a well directed fire on their forts and late approaches.

The calls of duty prevent my further writing. Excuse all inaccuracies, and believe that I shall always remain,

Affectionately yours, &c.

L E T T E R IV.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

9th. SEVERAL days more elapsed amidst expectation and firing, but no prospect of relief. The merchants are getting money apace ; for every article they sell they charge their own price. O ye winds be propitious, and quickly waft our floating castles to our relief ! Haste and save us from hunger, misery, and death !

The enemy continue their works on the shore, and have forwarded a battery near the guard house, on the right of *St. Phillippe*. Our fire from the batteries has slackened, as the enemy do not appear very numerous in their lines.

12th. Last night came in two deserters from the enemy's * Walloon guards, with their arms, &c. they assert that the enemy have one thousand pieces

* The King of Spain's Body Guards.

pieces of cannon and mortars in their lines, and 1779 only wait an order from the court of *Madrid* Nov. to fire, that their magazines are full of powder, and that a reinforcement of French troops are hourly expected. They are lodged at his Excellency's house, and I do not doubt but their intelligence will prove advantageous to the operations of our works. They were conducted by the quarter-master general to *Willis's*, and the upper batteries, from which a proper view can be taken of the enemy's works.

Wind N. W. This morning we were led 14th. to believe that our fleet was near at hand: the Spanish watch-towers hung out signal-colours, and the battery at *Cabritta Point* fired a gun for their cruizers to get under weigh. A privateer was soon discovered standing for the bay, under all the sail she could croud; the gun-boats bore down upon, and fired briskly into her, which she returned as spiritedly: two frigates having slipped anchor, stretched across from *Cabritta* to intercept her; having got within long gun shot, they fired two or three broadsides; the cutter then tacked and stood for the *Barbary* shore; the frigates followed, and soon drove to leeward; she then tacked and stood again for the garrison, when a third frigate and a xebec pushed out, and likewise dropped to leeward, while the cutter kept her course: Admiral *Barcello* then hove too under *Cabritta*, with an intent to keep the windward gage: the bravadoing, blustering, and vigilant *Barcello*, in the *St. Jean Baptiste* of 70 guns, eagerly bore down, and having got within half cannon shot, poured into her his whole

1779. whole broadside, which the cutter returned ; Nov. he then made signal for the gun-boats and 14th. gallies to board, but when they had rowed pretty near, the hardy crew gave them such a warm reception, that they were compelled to retire. The Spanish admiral having fallen to leeward, endeavoured to work up again, but not being able, on account of the fresh breeze at N. W. was, to his no small mortification, under the necessity of going to the eastward, with the remainder of his cruisers. She proves to be the *Buck of Folkestone*, Captain Fagg, in nineteen days from *England*. On his dropping anchor at *New Mole*, the numerous spectators from the batteries and walls, gave him three cheers, and the General on his landing paid him the highest commendation for his conduct and bravery.—The seamen relate a humorous account of Captain Fagg.

Arrived a settee with thirty-eight bullocks from *Tangier* ; two others were taken by the enemy's gun-boats, one of which had a packet for the garrison ; they were kept so long on board before they could get in, that they were nearly perished : their flesh, when killed, was like a jelly, and sold for three rials * and eight quarts per pound.

The wind having shifted, Admiral *Barcello* and his squadron returned to their station : they keep a sharp look out from *Cabritta*, being determined not to be beat again in so shameful a manner.

This

* A rial is a piece of Spanish coin, Gibraltar currency, eight-pence value, equal to four-pence three farthings sterling. A quart is a Spanish half-penny, forty of which is given in change for an English shilling.

This day four *Portuguese* who were privately 1779 dispatched by the Governor to fetch a packet Nov. from *Faro*, returned safe; they had a small 24th. boat which the *Moors* permitted them to carry on *Camels* over rocks and mountains, and having launched it in a creek under *Apes Hill*, they stole over in the night. We flatter ourselves there is good news, as the General and principal officers appeared to be in high spirits.

This morning came in a deserter from the 30th. enemy, and this evening another; they both, belonged to the *Walloon* guards, and brought their arms with them: the latter was pursued by three horsemen, and would have been taken, had not our people been very alert at *Willis's*, in pouring in grape * shot upon the pursuers.

The enemy are bringing down great quantities of *facines* to the lines, and are again labouring at their advanced works, but do not seem disposed to turn out fire. Last night came in two deserters from the *Walloon Guards*; they report that the enemy are not to fire while they can keep the place blockaded, as General *Alvarez* is confident that famine will oblige us to surrender. We are certainly greatly distressed for want of fresh provision and vegetables.— Salt meat, which is sold for two rials, and two and a half *per pound*, is difficult to be procured. Yesterday a baker was obliged to shut up, not having flour sufficient for his family for one month. Appearances are rather dreadful. God grant that a fleet may soon arrive, or the consequences will be truly dreadful. Came

* Shot of a pound and a half, and two pound weight, a number of them put in a tin case, and fired, which scatters a the discharge many yards.

1779 Came in a deserter from the Walloon guards.
Dec. 8. He was closely pursued by two horsemen, but our batteries made them retreat. He says, that the Spanish army are much distressed in camp for fresh water, and that a great many die of the flux, occasioned by drinking of the salt springs.

14th. This morning we perceived two men run out of the Spanish lines, and presently after two horsemen followed, and having overtaken them, they killed one on the spot, and secured the other, notwithstanding our fire.— Last night deserted two Hanoverians of *De la Motte's* regiment. They escaped to the enemy from *Europa Advance Guard*, by means of a rope ladder, which was accidentally left by the King's workmen.

15th. This morning the enemy executed the deserter they took yesterday. All their regiments were under arms.

19th. Garrison orders this day were as follow :

“ *No gun to be fired from any of the batteries at the enemy's ships, when the distance requires more than six degrees elevation, unless such ships are engaging, or in chase. Any Captain of the Royal Artillery, who may happen to be present on such occasions, will give his advice in the management of the guns, which the officers commanding guards will be justified in following.*”

21st. Last night sailed the Buck privateer for *Mabon*, wind S. W.

27th. This day the enemy began a fire upon our outward works. They obliged the garrison gardeners,

gardeners, who work on the ¹⁷⁷⁹ ~~ithmas~~, or neck of land (termed the neutral ground) to retire. Several *Genoese* fishermen, who were dragging nets at the sea side, was also under the necessity of retreating, leaving their nets, lines, and tackle, on the beach. A twenty-six pound shot fell at the north angle of Prince's lines ; the centinel narrowly escaped. The enemy are very busy—their approaches are in great forwardness, but are all masked ; their bomb batteries appear to have no ordnance mounted, nor has it been observed that any number of men have been employed there for some time past. We conjecture that this day is only a preface, or introduction to the grand display, and that the long boasted exhibitions are nearly ready for performance.

The enemy last night destroyed great part of our gardens, and took away lines, &c. that our fishermen left when they made their retreat yesterday. Came in a small boat from *Tangier*, with goats, fowls, and eggs : she immediately ran in under cover of the night. The goats sold for ten * cobbs per head ; fowls three † dollars six rials per couple ; eggs, six rials per dozen. Also came in three deserters from the *Walloon* guards. It is currently reported that the intelligence they bring is not altogether favourable to our wishes. We hope the fleet will shortly arrive, and that we may

* A Spanish dollar, value four shillings and eight pence sterlign at Gibraltar, is called a dollar and a half, or 12 rials, but is of no more value.

† Eight rials each, Gibraltar currency.

1779: may be enabled to give the enemy a British Dec. reception whenever they attack our walls.

30. The enemy continue the blockade, but keep constantly at work ; their parties are very numerous, but we cannot make them desist ; they have broken down all their stone guard-houses, and seem to be converting them into works of annoyance. We may expect that the ensuing year will be fertile with intelligence, and that we shall be able to give a more descriptive account of their approaches.

It is really vexing and mortifying to view the Spanish hills and heights, covered with cattle, while we can scarce procure a piece of salt beef, and that at a price, which, when told, carries with it the face of improbability.

I am, dear Brother,

Affectionately your's, &c.

LETTER V.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1780. I AGAIN take the pen to write, though I assure you, our most sanguine hope seems entirely lost. Last night came in two deserters of the Walloon guards ; from the accounts they bring, we expect to have many more months to suffer ; they say that the Spaniards engaged our fleet off *Cape Finister*, that the English were defeated, and a great many ships captured. Yesterday arrived some fresh troops in

in their camp, and this afternoon, a small boat 1780. that made a push for the garrison, was taken Jan. 7. off *Cabritta point*; it is not improbable that she was detached with intelligence for this place, as she did not appear to be deeply laden.

A Neapolitan polacre, laden with barley, 8th. having approached within the reach of *Europa* guns, we discharged a few shot at her, and obliged her to come in; she will afford us some relief:—Admiral *Barcello* made a signal immediately for a frigate and a xebec to cruize to the eastward—they passed by within long gun shot of the garrison.

Several random shot from the enemy, but 11th. no material damage done; they seem to have a great inclination to begin the work.—We keep a moderate fire upon their parties and works.

The enemy continue to fire occasionally—a 12th. shot struck the parapet of the *Old Mole*—a 26 pound shot (the first fired into the garrison) went through the roof of Mr. *Quartin*'s house, and drove a splinter into a lady's heel * who was walking in the street;—another went through a centry box in *Landport* covered-way: A mule belonging to the waggons employed to bring stone from the *Devil's Tower*, was lamed by their firing: and the enemy, in an unprecedented manner, inhumanly fired at a clergyman performing the funeral ceremony over the body of a deceased soldier.

This day the Field Officers commanding 13th. corps, assembled at Colonel *Ross*'s quarters, to take into consideration the present situation of the garrison provisions; when it was ordered that

* Mrs. Hamilton.

1780. that the soldiers ration should be shortened; Jan. viz. half-pound beef, quarter-pound pork, and one pint pease per week, deducted from each man's allowance.

15th. Our situation every day appears more alarming, there being a scarcity of almost every thing in the garrison—fire-wood a cob per hundred; flour five rials per pound; no fresh meat except an old cow, or worn-out ox, (only one perhaps killed in a month) which is sold at four and a half and five rials per pound; fowls twenty to twenty-four rials each; a goose ten dollars; a turkey twenty dollars; eggs a cob the dozen; and every other necessary in proportion.

This morning a soldier deserted from the back of the Rock, where he was with a party cutting bushes. We fired many shots at him, but all were ineffectual.

This afternoon, wind S. W. an English brig appeared in the Offing; she was chased by a xebec and several gallies, but fortunately got safe into *New Mole*: She brings the joyful and happy intelligence of a fleet being within twenty-four hours sail of the garrison, with succours.

It is almost beyond the power of words to describe the general joy which pervaded the soldiery as well as the inhabitants upon this gladdening intelligence—even avarice and extortion seem to pause from their iniquities, and to participate the pleasure inspired by our hopes.

I am, &c.

1. 15

LETTER

LETTER VI.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE garrison are all on the wing :—the 1780 found of the fleet is all that is to be heard, Jan. 16 and every rock and hill re-echoes the blissful tidings. Affection stretches forward and anticipates the pleasures of knowing the tender communications of distant friends and separated kindred. This morning flour sold for six-pence per pound, which was some time past two shillings, and a great favour to obtain it at that price ; the shops that were shut up, are now opened, and adorned with bread, biscuit, rusk, &c. The garrison appears in an entire state of joyful commotion, and the people are so busy purchasing eatables, that it brings to my remembrance the festive fairs in Britain. The enemy have hung out signal-colours from the watch-towers ; not a ship nor cruiser on the opposite side attempts to move. I believe the scene is changed without, as well as within the walls. *Barcello* must feel, with inexpressible pangs, this sudden stroke that robs him of the hope of conquest, and compels him to view the British ensigns that bid defiance to *Andalusia's* shore.

Came in a deserter from the Walloon guards. Intelligence not publickly known.

Last night arrived (unmolested) a brig laden 17th. with flour ; she left the British convoy two days since, and brings word, that they have taken a Spanish convoy of one ship of the line,

1780. Jan. 18th. 19th. 21st.

line, five frigates, and twenty-four sail of transports, bound from *Bilboa* to *Cadiz*. We hourly wait their arrival. According to the order of the 13th instant, our ration was stopped.

This morning came in the *Appollo* frigate. She brings the intelligence that several Spanish men of war got under sail from *Cadiz*, to engage our fleet, that the British were victorious, and that the enemy had one ship sunk, one blown up, one stranded, and four captured, glorious news!—Received half a pint of rice in lieu of pease.

Last night two English men of war arrived, and confirm the news above. About six this morning came in, the *Phœnix*, a Spanish 80 gun ship, commanded by Admiral *Don Langara*, who received a wound in his groin during the engagement: she lost her main top-mast and other rigging during the action. The British fleet having stood too near to the *Barbary* shore, over-shot the bay, and drove to eastward in the night, and it is probable it will be two or three days before they can work up. The Spanish Admiral came ashore this evening.

Wind E. Came in three Spanish 70 gun ships, one a Commodore, also the *Guiposcoana*, a 64, taken with the *Bolboa* convoy, and a great part of our fleet; they are so thick I cannot number them with any precision. About eleven this forenoon came in the *Prince George*, commanded by Admiral *Digby*, with *Prince William Henry* on board. Admirals *Rodney* and *Ross* are standing for the Rock. Our shipping have taken to the eastward two xebecs,

xebees, and a great many settees bound for the camp of St. Roque. Prince William Henry landed, accompanied by the Admiral; the Governor received them with the warmest encomiums, and the garrison and shipping performed a salute.

The Spanish squadron, commanded by Admiral *Don Juan de Langara, Gefe de Esquadra*, which Admiral *Rodney* fell in with off St. *Mary's*, are as follow:

| | | |
|----------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Phœnix, | 80 guns. | } Taken and brought in here. |
| Diligente, | 70 do. | |
| Monarca, | 70 do. | |
| Princeffa, | 70 do. | |
| St. Domingo, | 70 do. | blown up. |
| St. Eugenio, | 70 do. | taken, then abandoned. |
| St. Julian, | 70 do. | stranded. |
| St. Lorenzo, | 70 do. | } Escaped. |
| St. Augustin, | 70 do. | |
| Santa Rosalia, | 26 do. | |
| Santa Cecilia, | 28 do. | |

Last night, about eleven o'clock, the Terrible man of war, and four other ships, being drove by the rapidity of the current, near the enemy's forts *Phillipe* and *Negro*, they beat to arms in their camp, and made a position of defence; they fired 157 shot and 7 shells, but did no other damage than killing a Spanish prisoner on board the Terrible. This day the Spanish Commodore landed.

Wind W. Took a settee going to Ceuta. 23d.

This day the troops received their beef and pork, stopped last week. All hands at work unloading the shipping—Several cranes have been erected from *South-port* to the *New Mole*.

1780. The enemy this morning fired two shot to-
Jan. wards the garrison, one grazed North line-
25th. wall guard-house. About eight this morning,
a corporal and five private men of the Wal-
loons who made a push for the garrison, were
pursued by a party of horse and foot, more
than half way across the isthmus—two of the
men they knocked down with the butts of
their firelocks, pierced them several times
with their bayonets. The Corporal they se-
cured, and carried him and one of the dead
bodies away in triumph. The other three es-
caped the massacre, and arrived safe at *Land-*
port.

Arrived from the East this morning, Ad-
miral *George Bridges Rodney*, and several other
ships. This day we received three flags of
truce, respecting the exchange of prisoners.

26th. This morning we perceived the Spanish in-
fantry under arms; soon after observed a gib-
bet erected, and a criminal executed. It is
beyond dispute, that the unhappy sufferer is
the Corporal they took yesterday on the isth-
mus. This afternoon the Fortune cutter, under
a flag of truce, conveyed the sick and wound-
ed prisoners to the *Orange Grove*, where the
enemy received them. Came in, and anchored
in the Bay, Admiral *Lockhart Ross*, with some
sloothee prizes taken to the eastward.

27th. This morning arrived from *Tangier*, a small
boat with lemons and oranges;—a most use-
ful article, as they are very salutary in the
cure of the scurvy. Came in a Spanish brig.
Four Spanish line of battle ships and a 64, are
at anchor in the Bay, adorned with the British
enfigns.

It

It is easy to imagine the effect which this mortifying exhibition must have upon the Jan. mind of *Don Barcello*; aggravated, no doubt, 27th. by the disappointed issue to his own threats and idle vapourings.

Arrived a boat from *Tangier*, with a few dozen of fowls. Also a settee with bullocks and other refreshments from *Tetuan*. One of our frigates cruizing in the Ossing, captured a settee bound for the camp.

This forenoon landed from 4 ships of war, the second battalion of the 73d regiment of foot, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel *George M'Kenzie*: They were under orders for *Minorca*, but our Governor, with the advice of the Admirals, and Field Officers, has detained them here. This afternoon, wind S. W. Commodore *Elliott* in the *Edgar*, and a frigate, gave chase to a ship off *Cabritta*, under Dutch colours; which, as soon as she perceived, she tacked and stood for the land; *Elliott* bore down up her, and quickly got within long gun-shot, when she hoisted Spanish colours, and ran ashore under *Cabritta*: A brisk fire ensued on both sides, in which the battery at that place took a part, but Admiral *Rodney* perceiving their situation rather dangerous, hoisted a signal for them to return. It is imagined that she was detached with instructions to *Don Barcello*.

The Spanish boats were yesterday afternoon employed in endeavouring to get the ship off, which they did not effect till this morning's tide. Early this morning came in three deserters from the Walloon Guards, they were naked, having swam from the foot of fort St.

1780 *Philippe.* They report that the Spanish General holds a position of defence every night, as he expects our shipping will fire upon their camp, before they leave the bay. The enemy have mounted artillery in their fourteen and seven gun batteries, and seem to have prepared to act on the defensive at their forts—We keep a moderate fire upon them, and often put their guards in disorder. Every one is amazed that the enemy do not return it, for surely they can have no hope of taking this place by famine, since we have received supplies from *Britain*; or; should they still entertain that idea, a few ships of the line stationed here may keep the communication between *Tangier* and the Garrison so open as utterly to defeat so indecisive a project.

I am, &c.

LETTER VII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

Feb. 3. THE stores and provisions being almost landed, the fleet are preparing for sea, and it is confidently reported, that none of the ships of the line will be left here to guard the Bay; we may therefore conclude, that in a short time we shall experience a situation equally as distressing as that from which we have lately been relieved; for while the enemy commands a superior force in the bay, the

the supplies which would otherwise be forwarded from *Tangier* and *Tetuan*, will be cut Feb. off: A few days will leave our situation no mystery.

This day all the Spanish deserters embarked on board the men of war, on their passage to *England*. Sailed the *Childers* sloop, with dispatches.

Came in at *Landport*, two private men and a drummer, belonging to the enemy's Walloon Guards; they assert, that the Spanish General has not any orders to fire, but on the defensive, and that Admiral *Don Barcello* has received advice from *Madrid*, to renew the blockade as soon as the British fleet departs, at which time he is to be reinforced with two ships of the line and several frigates.

Came in a deserter from the Walloon guards.

This afternoon, wind E. N. E. Admiral 13th. *Rodney* made signal to weigh. About twelve o'clock, the men of war, including the five Spanish ships, viz. *Phœnix*, *Diligente*, *Monarca*, *Princesa*, *Guiposégana*, and convoy, got under sail. Several families took this safe opportunity of flying from fatigue and danger, and embarked on board the fleet. The battery at *Cabritta*, fired a gun to alarm the coast, which was returned at *Ceuta*, as our shipping stood towards that place in order to clear the land; in the evening they were all out of sight, but the enemy continued to fire alarm guns, and threw a great number of rockets from the watch towers.

The *Edgar*, under the command of Commodore *Elliott*, the *Panther* of 64 guns, the *Enterprise*

prize

THE SIEGE OF

1780 prize and *Porcupine* frigates; *Gibraltar* and *For-*
 Feb. 14 *tune* sloops remain here. At *Algaziras* are at anchor, one ship of 70 guns, one ditto 50, one frigate, and a few xebecs. We are now able to oppose our foes on the opposite side.

Yesterday Admiral *Langara*, and the other officers of his fleet, were permitted to pass to *Spain* on parole.

15th. Admiral *Barcello* this morning hauled out to the left of the battery at *Algaziras*; he appears to be very busy in getting up his top-masts and yards; some of his gallies passed to the westward. On the land side a few working parties have again made their appearance.

27th. Nothing material has happened, for some days. The *Spanish* horse and infantry, have been performing their evolutions, twice every day: it is computed their number, fit for actual service, is about 17 or 18,000. Last night came in a small boat with lemons and oranges from *Tangier*. The enemy's gun-boats chased her under *Europa*, which occasioned a few shot to be discharged from that post.

This day arrived at *Algaziras*, from the westward, four *Spanish* line of battle ships, two frigates, and one xebec.

28th. Wind W. Arrived at *Algaziras*, a *Spanish* frigate and a xebec from the westward: the frigate saluted Admiral *Barcello*, but no return was made. It appears as if they intended to renew the blockade.

Mar. 4. This morning alarm signals were made at *Ceuta*, of the appearance of an enemy to the eastward. Wind N. N. E. Admiral *Barcello* immediately loosed his fore-top-sails, as a signal to weigh. A frigate, xebec, and two gallies,



lies, made ready, and stretched across for *Ceuta* : 1780. soon after he followed, but had not quite Mar. cleared *Europa*, when the cruizers discovered the supposed prey, to be a xebec. The wind having shifted to the S. E. this evening, the enemy have again anchored at their look-out on the opposite side. Several gallies and other small cruizers, that stole away during the continuance of our fleet, have ventured to return.

This day our cartel, under a flag of truce, 12th. received from Spain 390 British prisoners of war. They report that *Spain* is determined on the conquest of this place in contempt of all impediments, and that a large body of *French* troops are really embarked for the camp, to forward this determined object.

Last night a deserter came in from the Walloon guards. He gives an account that the enemy suffered considerably from our fire yesterday. One shell killed and wounded 25 persons.

The Spanish squadron this morning were 19th. decorated with colours of various sorts. In the afternoon their troops in camp were arranged in three lines ; the battery at *Fort Negro* made a triple salvo of 12 guns each time, which was answered as often by a running fire from the army. The batteries and shipping at *Algaziras* performed the same.

A neutral vessel was brought in by the Spanish cruizers for examination, Admiral *Barcelo* being determined not to let a ship pass unnoticed. For these three days we have not fired much, being busily employed in strengthening our

1780. our works, particularly those adjoining the Mar. isthmus, as the enemy work busily on that place at the erection of new approaches.

25th. Wind W. This day arrived several polacres and settees at the *Orange Grove*.—We only conjecture they are laden with stores for the camp.

29th. At day-break this morning a signal-gun was fired from a xebec near the point; several armed cruisers got under sail, and formed a line from the point to *Ape's Hill*, where, after firing a shot, they captured a settee, and brought her in, with her colours reversed. It is imagined she had cattle on board for the garrison, which is very much wanted, as very little fresh meat can be purchased. Our provision is chiefly salt beef and pork, and that we use sparingly, not knowing when we may receive another supply. Vegetables are scarce and dear, and of the worst sort in quality. Our barren rock yields but little; but as necessity generally adopts a remedy, many have begun to convert the solid parts of the rock into kitchen gardens, which some have effected by raising walls one height above another, and filling the inclosed with earth. It will appear a scene of enchantment to Admiral *Barcello*, when he beholds the face of the dry and barren Rock in a state of vegetation.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Yours, &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R VIII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE enemy are still forwarding their approaches, and on our part, I can affirm there is no deficiency. The *Spaniards* must sustain considerable losses in their operations, as we seldom let them rest. Our fire, of late, does not prevent them working. Judge what must be their sufferings, when we are hourly pouring upon them an incessant discharge of every kind of shot and shells.

The sufferings of the British troops at present, is from heavy duty, and the scarcity of provision. When the enemy have compleated their approaches, I imagine they will retaliate, but we are prepared to withstand their efforts.

Last night a boat was dispatched to *Barbary*, to learn if there were a packet, or any intelligence from Britain.

This morning, about three o'clock, the boat that was sent to *Barbary*, arrived safe; she brought a packet to the General, but not any intelligence has transpired. The *Patron of the boat has refused to answser any particular questions.

Last night, wind W. arrived the *Hyena* frigate, in thirteen days from *England*. She exchanged several shot in the Gut with the enemy's xebecs. Admiral *Barcello*, this morning, (wind having shifted) detached a frigate to the

* The Master, called *Patron* by the *Spaniards*.

1780 the W. where she keeps tacking and hovering in the Gut.

20th. Wind E. This morning, about nine o'clock, the *Edgar* and *Hyena*, got under weigh suddenly, and stood to the westward; the *Spanish* towers immediately spread the alarm, and Admiral *Barcello*, with three ships of the line hove out, but to his no small mortification, could not weather *Cabritta*, until our shipping were out of sight, as he was obliged to make several tacks in the Bay, owing to the stiff breeze.

This day *Don Barcello* and his squadron, returned to their former anchorage, baffled and disappointed by the escape of our frigates.

27th. Last night came in a schooner from *Malaga*, with lemons and oranges: the crew are natives of *Spain*, but came in here, knowing it to be a good market.

28th. Some time in the course of the night (which was thick and hazy) the schooner slipped out unperceived by the enemy.

30th. Came in a boat from *Tetuan*, with twelve dozen of fowl: they had several cocks on board, which they were forced to kill, fearing their crowing might alarm the *Spanish* cruisers that cover the Bay.

May 1 Last night, about ten o'clock, a fire broke out in the enemy's camp, which raged with great violence for upwards of two hours.

3d. Wind E. This day arrived a convoy from the eastward at *Algaziras* and *Orange Grove*. It has been observed that many carts are employed in carrying shot and shells from the Pier to the *Artillery Park*, where they are scaling their cannon; their troops appear very busy, and their motions indicate a speedy attack. The

The inhabitants are beginning to erect sheds 1780 at the southward near *Mount-Pleasant*, as a retreat whenever the enemy open upon us, which many are of opinion will be soon. The *Spaniſh* troops are exercised every day, and frequently fire in their camp.

Came in a boat from *Tangier*, with lemons, 4th. fowl, leather, and *Barbary* pumps. The great demand in this place for shoes, renders leather an article of great value.

This afternoon the *Spaniſh* army were arranged in two divisions, and about four o'clock began a sham fight, similar to an attack upon the garrison. One division took post on the rising ground under the *Queen's Chair* (supposed to be the British) while the other division, in the valley on the common, endeavoured to dislodge them, and take possession of their intrenchments: the fire was well supported on both sides for three hours, when the British forces were entirely routed;—they had several field pieces, and some cannon with them. I assure you, that the fight afforded great entertainment, and the army displayed some merit in their performance: they have been practising several days. It is evident they mean to familiarize their troops to the nature of an attack, so that they may be more expert when they make a regular assault.

This day a cartel from *Spain*, brought over 7th. between forty and fifty British prisoners of war: they confidently assert, that fourteen sail of the line, several frigates, and a number of transports with troops, were hourly expected to sail from *Cadiz*, but their destination was a matter of uncertainty.

Last

1780 Last night, four deserters endeavoured to reach the garrison, only one escaped safe; three were either taken or shot by the *Spanish* horse patrols:—he is one of the Walloons, and says, that the *Spanish* General has received advice from *Madrid*, to fire whenever he thinks proper; two large mortars are mounted in their lines, with an incredible number of cannon. From this intelligence, we may conclude that a bombardment will shortly take place.

This day a soldier was executed in the garrison for theft. He died with great contrition and penitence, seemingly sensible of his situation and wickedness.

9th. This day the *Spaniards* executed two men; we suppose them to be those whom they took on the night of the 7th instant.

11th. This day came in a deserter from *Spain*: he is the first native who has deserted to us. He says that the duty in the *Spanish* camp is incessant and fatiguing, and that cannon and mortars are mounted for the purpose of opening a fire upon us immediately.

12th. Last night came in a boat from *Tangier*, with fowls, pigeons, and leather. The enemy chased her under the guns.

15th. This day a *Swedish* ship having approached *Europa*, we fired a shot, and obliged her to come in; but to our great disappointment, found her cargo to consist of salt only.

This morning the *Sweed* sailed from hence to the west, but the *Spanish* cruizers afterwards took her into *Algaziras* for examination.

A *Spanish* xebec arrived at *Algaziras* from the eastward, towing two large gun boats.

This

This morning two boats arrived from *Tanger*, with fowls and lemons: they bring advice, that the *Fly* packet-boat was, on the night of the 17th inst. cut out of the Port by the *Spaniards*. It appears from this circumstance, that the *Moors* are inclined to favour the *Spanish* cause, or otherwise they would not have suffered an act of this nature to be committed under the walls of their town.

Arrived this day from the West, a schooner laden with leather, butter and oil. Nothing extraordinary in the enemy's camp. Our garrison are beginning to be very sickly; the small pox rages with great violence, and carries off 18 or 20 per week, but mostly children. The enemy are very busy at *Algaziras*; a great many boats are every day employed from the *Orange Grove* to that place, but we cannot observe any thing particular they are doing. We suppose they are conveying ordnance stores for the siege.

I am your's, &c.

LETTER IX.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE cannonade is continued on the ~~ene-~~ ^{June 1} ~~my~~ :—they are constantly bringing down stores and ammunition to their lines, and make great progress in their approaches. 'Tis somewhat strange, notwithstanding the slaughter

1780 ter our shot and shells occasions among them, June. that they are not disposed to retaliate.

Wind W. arrived a settee from *Tangier* with 11 bullocks, 13 sheep, 24 dozen fowls, and a quantity of leather, eggs, and lemons. She got in unobserved by the enemy; the wind being fresh, forced the *Spanish* cruizers into *Algaziras*.

4th. Came in two boats with a few fowl from *Tetuan*.

5th. Last night a soldier deserted from the *Mole*-
head guard. He had not been long pofted sentinel, when he left his firelock and clothes in the box, and took his paſſage (naked) in the water.

6th. Came in a boat with fifteen sheep from *Tan-
gier*. The Patron relates, that an English brig arrived in that Port, in eighteen days from *Portsmouth*, laden with butter, porter, and flour, and that the *Spanish* cruizers were watching her closely.

7th. About one this morning, wind N. W. a ship was discovered standing for the *New Mole*; the *Enterprize* hailed her; when she answered, *A provision ship from England*; the frigate hailed again, and suspecting that she was not a friend, immediately hoisted the signal of an enemy's approach; soon after several more appeared keeping the same course. The *Enterprize* discharged a shot at the first, and the enemy finding they were discovered, took to their boats, and set them on fire, one after another, being nine in number. The garrison drums beat to arms, and the soldiery immediately repaired to their stations. A brisk fire from the batteries and

and shipping commenced on the *Spaniſh* boats, 1780 by which they must have suffered considerably. June 7. The terrified inhabitants kept weeping with the most bitter and inexpressible anguish, expecting every minute a bombardment from the land side.

The *British* seamen displayed great firmness and valour in repelling these destructive visitors. Every boat was instantly manned, and with daring resolution they steered to these flaming devourers grappling to their burning sides.—Amidst the most imminent danger and scorching heat, they towed them out of the direction of the *New Mole*, where twenty sail of shipping lay at anchor—three drove to the eastward.

Admiral *Barcello*, with his squadron, was under sail, flattering himself, that if our shipping were not burnt, they would cut their cables and push to sea; but his stratagems were frustrated, and this morning he returned to his old station, to study more mischief.

Some time in the night came in a boat from *Tangier*, with fowls and leather. It was fortunate she was not fired at from the garrison, as she might reasonably have been suspected for a Spaniard.

This morning came in a privateer and a 8th. large settee from *Portugal*, with sheep, wine, oil, and lemons. This must be an additional mortification to *Don Barcello*, notwithstanding the vigilance of his numerous cruisers to distress us, that we are so seasonably supplied by our friends.

Arrived with a fine breeze at W. two boats 10th. from *Barbary*—they brought 48 sheep and a

1780 few fowls. A gun was fired from one of the June. enemy's gallies, but too late to prevent their 11th. getting in.

Last night a man on duty, at the batteries on the hill, fell from a precipice of the Rock, and was dashed to pieces. It is supposed he intended to desert.

12th. Last night arrived a settee from *Tangier*, with 38 bullocks and 80 sheep; also a small boat with oil. These frequent supplies will enable the garrison to sustain their situation with the utmost spirit. Beef is sold for three rials, and mutton four rials per pound.

14th. The enemy's line of battle ships and frigates sailed from *Algaziras* to the East; Admiral *Barcello* has hoisted his flag on board a xebec—We cannot conjecture what is meant by this manœuvre.

15th. Last night sailed from the *New Mole*, a 20 gun ship for *England*, with dispatches. Wind N. E. Came in a small settee from the eastward with fruit.

18th. Arrived in the night from *Algaziras*, a boat with six deserters belonging to the naval and marine service of the enemy: they say that our opponents are heartily tired of their situation.

19th. Wind W. This day arrived at *Algaziras*, a Spanish frigate and three large xebecs, accompanied by a Moorish corsair.

20th. Came in a small boat, with a few sheep and fowls.

22d. Last night our batteries kept a hot and incessant fire upon the enemy's working parties; they laboured uncommonly hard at their approaches, as we heard their hammers during the whole course of the night. We did not observe

observe any additional work this morning, so 1780 that we conclude they were nailing down plat- June. forms in their batteries. We continue our working parties on the fortifications, which are in extreme good condition to annoy them.

Wind E. Came in a *Tartan* from *Minorca*, 23d. with leather, wine, and charcoal. A seasonable supply—shoes being much wanted (which are sold at 20 and 22 rials per pair) charcoal is also a great acquisition, as firing is become a very scarce article; the wrecks of the fireships destroyed on the 7th instant, being almost exhausted, we shall find ourselves greatly necessitated in a short time for a sufficiency for cooking. A *Portuguese* fisherman, who had pulled a rib from one of the wrecks, on the morning of their destruction, and towed it to shore with his boat, received nine dollars for the small purchase. The wine also is very acceptable.

This forenoon a Spanish 70 gun ship from the East, having a British ensign on her fore-top-mast-head, and a yellow flag over it, as a signal of defiance, stretched in close towards *Rosia Bay*, accompanied with two frigates and a xebec, and opened their fire upon the *Panther* and *Enterprize*: our shipping and batteries gave them a well directed return, the 70 gun ship received several shot, the xebec had one of her sails damaged, and her boom carried away; three of the enemy's shot came on shore; one fell at *Europa*, one at the *Devil's Bowling Green*, and one at the *New Mole*.—Fifteen men were wounded on board the *Enterprize* frigate, by some powder taking fire during the action, nine were sent to the Naval

D 3

Hospital,

1780 Hospital, the others remained in the ship, not June being in a dangerous way.

27th. This morning at two o'clock, (it being a dead calm) the enemy began to fire upon the garrison, and the shipping in ~~the~~ Bay. — It is conjectured they were gun-boats or floating-batteries, for it being very dark, it was impossible to perceive their form. Several shot, (26lb. weight) came on shore at South-barracks, but happily did no damage. The shipping and garrison kept up a brisk fire, the picquets of the several regiments were under arms, and the women and children raised, on hearing a general discharge of cannon. It is not improbable that this is a stratagem of Admiral Barcello's, to harass and fatigue us with repeated firings and alarms from the Bay, and then give the decisive stroke; but they have Britons to encounter. The more we feel our enemy, the more ardent are our desires to engage them.

29th. Wind W. Arrived a boat, with sundry small articles, from *Tangier*.

30th. This day, our Town-Major (Captain Burke, 58th Regiment,) went out at *Bay-side* and received a * parley from the enemy. Not the least intelligence has transpired. The situation of the enemy's works and approaches, indicate a bombardment, and some imagine that articles of capitulation have been sent in for negotiation.

The enemy have for several days been carrying

* An Officer advancing with a drummer beating, for the purpose of conveying or receiving conditions, during which time the firing on each side ceases.

ing stores in covered waggons to their lines: 1780 they keep strengthening and advancing their June. approaches; their horse and infantry are exercising daily, and a great many men employed in and about their Artillery Park,—we can plainly perceive they have a great quantity of shot and shells piled there. With fervent wishes for your health and welfare, I remain,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours, &c.

L E T T E R X.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

OUR cartel, under a flag of truce, proceeded July 22. half way over the Bay this forenoon, and received from the *Spanish* cartel 100 prisoners of war; taken in the *Admiral Keppel* privateer. They bring information that 42 sail of *French* and *Spanish* line of battle ships, and ten bomb-ketches, have actually sailed from *Cadiz* for this place, and that 30,000 men are within a short march of the camp of *St. Roque*. This makes it evident that Spain is determined if possible, to take *Gibraltar*, so that we may shortly expect warm work. Some consultations have been held, but the result is not made public.

Last night, wind E. N. E. the *Panther*, Capt. *3d. Harvey*, got under way with a soaring breeze;

1780 some affirm she is gone to *Tangier*, for the July. preservation of the ship, others, that she has sailed for *England*. The report made by the prisoners received from Spain yesterday occasioned her departure. Our force is not very formidable, the *Enterprize* and *Porcupine* frigates, *St. Firmin* sloop, the *Gibraltar* and *Fortune* cutters, only remaining on the station.

An armed boat having come near our ships this forenoon, was fired at several times to make her sheer off. It is imagined that *Don Barcello* came over in her, to see what had become of the *Panther*.

5th. This forenoon, the Spaniards were very busy in camp ; several parties practising their mortars. We kept up a very hot fire last night upon their parties, particularly with small shells, which are very destructive.

8th. Last night, wind E. four old India ships sailed on their passage to *England*. They came with the fleet under the command of *Admiral Rodney*. Our shipping intend (as the nights are now dark) to slip out occasionally. This afternoon came in a deserter from the Walloon Guards : He swam from a battery on this side *Port Negro*—the enemy fired two shots at him. He says, the Spaniards are meditating a vigorous storm against this place, and that on 7th of June, when the fireships were sent in, he was an assistant gunner at the lines, where every thing was in readiness to bombard the town, in case any of those ships had dropped into the *New Mole*, that the matches were lighted, and only waited for the word “*Fire*.”

Wind

Wind W. came in a packet-boat from *Faro*, 1780.—She lay eight days in the creeks of the *Barbary* shore, before she could find an opportunity of getting in.—The *Portuguese* Captain says, it was currently reported, that the *British* fleet had defeated the *French*, on their passage to join the *Spaniards* at *Cadiz*. How far this is true, time will inform us..

The prisoners of war brought in here the 2d instant, assert, that several more fireships are preparing at *Algaziras* and the rivers. The naval Commander on this intelligence, removed all vessels from *New Mole* into the Bay.

Wind W. Arrived a boat from *Tangier*, 11th. with fowls. From the account she brings, we may expect no further intercourse with *Barbary*: The Patron says, two of our garrison boats, were chased on shore by the *Spaniards*, and captured in that port. The Emperor of *Morocco*, still winks at the hostilities committed by them, and even countenances their depredations, by permitting the *Spanish* boats to seize our vessels coming into *Tangier*; several have been taken under the walls of that place.

Several *Spanish* frigates and xebecs keep cruizing in the Gut, and to the eastward of the Rock. *Barcello* manifests great alertness.

Between one and two o'clock this morning, the *Spanish* gun-boats began an attack upon our shipping: The fire was returned by us, but it is imagined without any effect, they being imperceptible to the eye, the flash of their guns being the only object we had to direct us: Several of the enemy's shot came on shore, and a gun was dismounted on board the *Enterprize* frigate.

17th. GARRISON

1780.
July

GARRISON ORDERS.

Whenever there is any firing from the garrison or the enemy, or any appearance of the enemy's ships, row boats, or armed vessels approaching, the Commissioned Officers commanding guards, are to report to the Governor what they observe, and mention whether all is well on the guard.

19th. About two this morning, little wind, the enemy's gun-boats again attacked the shipping and garrison, without doing any particular damage, except rousing the wearied soldiery, and timid inhabitants from their nightly slumbers.

This day a soldier deserted from *Upper Forbes's*, where he was at work. He got down, by a scaling ladder, and was not discovered until he was seen running across the sands, too late to fire at him with any effect. It is not improbable but we shall be more frequently troubled with the gun-boats, as there is not the least doubt but he will inform the enemy how far their shot reaches.

23d. Wind W. Arrived a *Spanish* ship of the line at *Algaziras*—and also came in here a small boat from *Earo*, with lemons and onions.

24th. This day our cartel received from *Spain* five British prisoners of war, who were sick when the last cartel arrived.

31st. Wind E. Last night four empty transports sailed from hence on their passage to *England*: It is imagined the enemy did not perceive them.

them. About noon a vessel arrived from *Misnorca*, with wine, leather, and onions ; she narrowly escaped being taken behind the Rock—A half galley that came out to intercept her, was fired at by our batteries and shipping, which made her sheer off.

Yours, &c.

L E T T E R XI.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

WIND West. This morning between ten Aug. 3 and eleven o'clock, several guns were distinctly heard in the Gut ; soon after, we discovered the *Spanish* cruizers chasing a small sottee, which stood for the Bay, but before she could get under the cover of our guns, was obliged to strike. It is asserted that she was detached from *Faro* with the mail, the loss of which will be regretted by those persons who have been long without hearing from their friends.

Several vessels arrived from the westward at *Algaziras*, supposed to be laden with ordnance and military stores.

We have kept almost a constant fire upon the enemy this week past, but cannot make them desist from their labours, which they diligently attend to.

Wind

1780. Wind W. Early this morning, the Spanish
Aug. gallies and gun-boats sailed from *Algaziras*—a
small brig appeared standing for this place; the
enemy began a fire upon her, both of round
and grape shot, which she run through, till she
got nearly within the cover of the guns at
Europa, when it fell a dead calm, and to our
great mortification, she was boarded and towed
off by the enemy, nor could we afford her
any assistance. This vessel is known to be the
Dolphin, with supplies from *Lisbon*.

16th. This day our cartel received the crews of
four vessels taken on their passage hither, viz.
Dolphin, Captain *Grant*, from *Lisbon*; *Sally* and
Rachael, Captain *Hays*, from *London*; *Polly*,
Captain *Coffin*, from ditto; and *Betsy*, Captain
Wilson, from ditto. The three latter were taken
in and about *Tangier-Bay*, within musquet shot
of the town.

26th. Last night the enemy threw up a great quantity
of sand upon their works, to prevent the
penetration of our shot; their approaches are
forwarded with an astonishing assiduity; we
can plainly perceive that they have received a
reinforcement of troops. From the progress
of their operations, it is imagined, by those
experienced in war, that a short period will
open the grand and long expected display,
wherein Britons are to become resolute per-
formers. If intrepidity can withstand such a
numerous band of besiegers, we have every
hope of being victorious.

Our Governor has made great additions
to our fortifications;—several new batteries
have been erected upon the hill, and others
planned out. Should the enemy not open
till

till these are compleated, we shall sing to the 1780 *Dons*, the old song of Defiance, and laugh at their approaches.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Sincerely your's.

L E T T E R XII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THIS day several large *Spanish* settees arrived from the eastward, with timber and fascines, they anchored off the pier at the *Orange Grove*. It is conjectured they have other works in contemplation. Part of their cargo was landed this afternoon.

Last night two soldiers deserted from *Middle-hill Guard*; they got down the back of the Rock, which is a dreadful precipice, and sufficient to deter the most hardened.

The enemy keeps our port blockaded much closer than ever; about ten of their armed cruisers are constantly under *Cabritta*, some at *Tarifa*, about eight near *Tangier*, three or four at *Tetuan*, some at *Cueta*, and several at the Gut's mouth, so that it is almost impossible for any vessel to escape: The gun-boats and gallies form a chain every night from *Cabritta* to *Europa Point*, and in the morning return to their anchorage.

On

1780 On the land side the enemy are quiet, very few working parties employed, their works appear to be complete. We have not received, an ox from *Barbary* since June 12th, and every species of provision is now at a most extravagant rate. The small quantity of poultry in the garrison, sells high; a turkey cock, was sold a few days ago for three guineas and a half; a goose one pound ten shillings; ducks a guinea a couple; a hen twelve shillings; eggs eight pence each; powder sugar two shillings the pound; soap one shilling and four-pence ditto, charcoal half-a-guinea for 25 lb weight, oil two shillings the pint; pork two shillings and six-pence the pound; fish at the rate of eighteen-pence ditto; fire-wood five shillings and six-pence per hundred weight; tallow-candles two shillings and six-pence per pound; onions eight-pence ditto; and all other articles proportionally dear, and scarcely to be purchased.

From this sketch you may form an idea of our present situation, and the consequences that are to follow, if some supplies do not arrive from England.—Arrived a xebec from the westward at *Algaziras*.

14th. Arrived last night, a small settee from *Minorca* with wine, oil, sugar, honey, onions, turkeys, and other necessaries, which are sold at enormous prices; many things almost for their weight in silver.

16th. This day a company of marksmen were formed out of the several regiments; they are to practice twice a day, under the command of Lieutenant *Burleigh*, of the 39th regiment.

Our

Our cartel this day received a Midshipman 1780 from Spain, a prisoner of war. It is confidently asserted, that the combined fleet have 23d. taken off the *Madeiras*, fifty or sixty sail of our outward-bound *West-Indiamen*, and some *East-India* ships, many of them already arrived at *Cadiz*; if the account is true, the loss will be sensibly felt by *Britain*—The enemy are busily employed in raising the *merlons of all their batteries at the lines, with fascines and sand bags, and work openly upon their †glacis. We do not fire upon them now, as we are forwarding some additional fortifications, and probably they might return the fire as they are prepared for the attack, which would greatly annoy us in our labours.

Last night, wind E. failed the *Sally* and *Betsey*, 25th. and another ship for *England*; we think they are both discovered, as the enemy threw several rockets from their watch-towers.

Last night failed the ships *Handelier* and 26th. *Nancy*, with several women and children on board, bound for *England*. A cruizer under the *Barbary* shore, fired an alarm gun, and this morning we discovered two xebecs had pushed to the westward.

[*Biscuit will be delivered to the regiments in lieu 27th. of soft bread, from Monday next, the 2d of October, until further orders.*]

This afternoon a reinforcement of three 28th. large Spanish xebecs from the eastward, arrived at *Algaziras*. Came in a deserter from the Walloon

* A part of fortification between two port-holes.

† A sloping bank.

1780. Walloon guards; he was dressed like a farmer, says that he was a serjeant in the Spanish service: he is a German, speaks English and French pretty well; seems to be an intelligent man. The manner of his coming to the garrison occasions a suspicion of his being a spy; the governor has ordered him to be stationed at *Windmill-hill*, and not to have the privilege of walking the streets, as the other deserters have.

29th. This day an additional Spanish frigate came to an anchor at *Algaziras* from the West.

30th. Wind W. The enemy this day brought into *Algaziras* the ship *Sally* and *Betsey*, with her ensign reversed. She sailed from here the 25th instant. It is not improbable but the other three ships have shared the same fate.

Oct. 1. The Spaniards, availing themselves of the darkness of the night, erected a breast-work on the isthmus, between *Landport Gardens* and the *Round Tower*, about 60 feet in length, being within 800 yards of our lines; and about three o'clock this morning they set fire to our huts in the *Gardens*, and came undiscovered as far as *Bay-side* and *Lower-Forbes's* Guard-houses, where they hung several bundles of combustibles on the palisades to burn them down, together with machines, constructed with twelve tubes, charged with a ball cartridge; to each of which a fuze led, intended thereby to kill the guards in endeavouring to free them from the gates; the fuze did not burn to the powder, and the machines were brought in to our laboratory. The sentinels posted there did not observe them, owing to the darkness of the night, and the roaring of the

the sea and wind; but as soon as the flames 1780
appeared, the guards gave them a smart fire Oct. 1,
of musquetry, which obliged them to retreat.
Previous to the affair, the enemy threw a
rocket at *Algaziràs*, which was answered at
their lines, when, in an instant, the blaze
spread over every part of the Gardens. They
had lain a train from our gates to the several
huts in the Gardens, which soon consumed
them: fortunately no material damage was
done to our gates, nor any person hurt on our
side.

This day the enemy brought in, with their 2d.
ensigns reversed, the *Handelier* and *Nancy*, that
sailed the 26th of September. Count *D'Eftaing* (we suppose) with several general officers
from the camp, came down to the lines this
forenoon. He was saluted at *Fort-Negro* with
15 guns on his return to the camp, from
whence he proceeded, accompanied with a
great many boats, to *Algaziràs*, where the
shipping saluted him. The deserter who came
in on the 29th last month reports, that the
Count was expected in the *Spanish* camp when
he left it, and added, that several *French* regi-
ments were preparing to reinforce the *Spanish*
army next spring, though they flattered them-
selves at *St. Roque*, that the garrison would be
in their hands much sooner.

Last night we fired at the enemy's breast- 3d.
work, an incredible number of small shells,
and several carcases, but we do not perceive
any particular damage done.

GARRISON

1780
Oct. 3.

GARRISON ORDERS.

If the enemy approach towards any of the posts, and at all times where there is any firing, or any thing extraordinary happens in the night, reports are immediately to be sent to the Governor, and the Field Officer of the day, and notice given to the adjacent posts. In case of a sudden attack, upon any of the posts, the Officer commanding there, will make such a disposition for the defence of his post, as the nature of the attack may seem to him to require.

4th. About eleven o'clock last night, there was a great deal of firing at the entrance of the Bay; and this morning we perceived the enemy in possession of a cutter, with a Spanish ensign above the English.

5th. Our cartel went out this day for prisoners of war, but they only received the women, children, and invalids—the seamen were detained. What the Spaniards mean by this, is not known: if they mean to starve us into a surrender, they should send every man they take prisoner; for the more we have to maintain, the sooner will our provisions be consumed.

7th. This day the Town-Major went out on the isthmus with a parley; the sentinel at the advanced work, at first opposed his passing, but after some deliberation, accompanied him as far as the Round Tower, where an officer came to receive the letter, but looked very full, not being pleased with having their works examined. It seems they have good covering for their men there.

Last

Last night the enemy raised the merlons of 1780 their batteries at the lines, about two feet Oct. higher.

GARRISON ORDERS.

*The men to receive to-morrow, two pound of salt fish, one ditto of pork, and half a pound of beef.**

Wind E. This morning early, a small settee 11th. arrived with supplies from *Minorca*, and the Patron having intimated that two others were standing for the Rock, our boats went out with an intention to assist them, but no such vessels appeared; however a *Danish* dogger, in company with a *Dutch* convoy, having come pretty near *Europa Advance*, which she could not see on account of a thick fog; our boats boarded and brought her in. She proves to be from *Malaga*, bound to *Copenhagen*, laden with lemons, oranges, raisins, &c. which articles being deemed very wholesome for the troops, especially the sick, the Governor ordered her cargo to be landed. An attempt was also made by our boats upon a *Dutch* ship, but on account of the fire from the frigate of the convoy, was compelled to desist.

Last night a soldier attempting to desert to the enemy, from *Middle-bill Guard*, fell from the heights, and was dashed to pieces at the foot of the Rock. One would imagine it to be madness in a person to endeavour to escape that way, as the precipices of the Rock are so steep, that the very idea to a rational man, would deter him from such a proceeding.

E Two

* A great part of which is quite rotten, particularly the salt fish.

1780 Two of the enemy's gun-boats have for these
 Oct. several mornings appeared off the *Old Mole-*
 16th. *Head* (at long-gun-shot distance) and row
 gently along in a line opposite the *King's-*
Bastion, as if they were sounding: they pre-
 vent our fishing boats from going to their
 usual posts. Yesterday and this day, a large
 body of the enemy were busily employed in
 levelling a piece of ground on the east side of
 the first guard-house near *Fort Phillippe*. Our
 engineers are of opinion they are going to
 erect a battery there.

18th. The enemy's gun-boats, yesterday and this
 day, fired on our fishing-boats, and obliged
 them to come in. It is evident their intention
 is to prevent the supply of fish, as well as meat.
 The ordnance mounted in these boats, dis-
 charge shot 26lb. weight, and are of great
 annoyance. They are able to attack a ship of
 force in a calm.

19th. Wind E. Came in a small vessel from *Mahon*,
 with variety of articles. The gun-boats fired
 several shot at the *St. Fermen* sloop, which she
 returned, but the enemy did not do any da-
 mage to her or the garrison.

We have these several nights, at intervals,
 discharged *light balls on the isthmus, to disco-
 ver if the enemy's parties were working, which
 the *Spanish* soldiers often extinguish by cover-
 ing them with sand.

GARRISON

* Some cast in lead, and some made of strong paper,
 filled with a composition, which while it burns, gives a
 sufficient light to observe the enemy's motions.

GARRISON ORDERS.

1780

*Issues of provision for the next month, commencing Oct 19
23d of October, and ending 19th Nov. 1780.*

MEN PER WEEK.

*Beef, one pound; pork, one ditto; pease, one pint; oatmeal, one ditto; butter, two ounces and half; *wheat, one pint and half; flour 3-4ths of a pound; raisins, half a pound; kidney beans, one pint; vinegar, quarter of a pint, in lieu of three pints of pease, and seven ounces butter.*

Wind S. E. This morning arrived and anchored under *Europa Advance*, not being able to get round the Point, a small boat with wine and other necessaries from *Algiers*. The *Spanish* General sent in a parley this forenoon, wherein it is signified that he will not any longer communicate by land, and appointing Flags of Truce to meet in the Bay, whenever necessary.

21st.

This morning the weather being more calm, 22d. our boats brought round the sottee that anchored under the *Advance* yesterday. About four this afternoon, three of the enemy's gun-boats saluted the *Enterprize*, with their 26 pounders, which she returned:—the battery at the *Mole* and *South Bastion* fired several

E 2

rounds

* The provision is getting very unfit for use, and the wheat delivered to the troops is of no service, as the inside is destroyed by insects, and only the integument remaining.

1780 rounds at them, which made them take a hasty
Oct. farewell. Several of their shot came on shore.

27th. This morning we perceived that the enemy
had extended their advance work (now term-
ed the *Tower Battery*) several yards. We fired
many shells, but without success, as most of
them fell wide of the work; the *Spanish* sol-
diers encouraged by this, came out and exhi-
bited tokens of defiance, but a round of well-
directed grape shot from *Willis's*, soon made
them forget their pastime. They are still em-
ployed on the work adjacent to *St. Phillippe*,
and have begun to make a battery at *Cabritta*
Point, either to protect their cruisers which
anchor there, or to annoy our shipping passing
by.

31st. We continue to keep up a fire upon the en-
emy on the isthmus, which has greatly pre-
vented their carrying on their works; they
have not made any addition since the 26th.
Last night two soldiers that were sentinels at
Upper Forbes's, got down by means of a rope,
and deserted. The intelligence they may con-
vey to the enemy, will be far from agreeable
to their wishes: to hear that the *British* troops
are in high spirits; that our batteries are in
excellent order, and well furnished with ar-
tillery, will have a greater tendency to discour-
agement than martial animation.

The difficulties still to be encountered, and
the impending danger which hang over our
heads, seem to make no other impression on
the soldiery, than to stimulate them to labo-
rious exertions, and to make them look for-
ward to that fame and glory which is to be
acquired. *I remain yours, &c.*

LETTER

LETTER XIII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

OUR situation still remains the same; the 1780 enemy working, and we firing: Admiral Nov. 1 *Barello*, with an unexampled strictness, continues to guard the entrance of the Bay; even neutrals are not allowed to pass without examination. A sloop who kept company with a *French* convoy which passed to the eastward, and made a sudden push for *Europa*, was taken to the southward of the Point, and carried into *Ceuta*. This day we fired several well-directed shells into the *Tower Battery*, where we heard men at work.

Last night two soldiers deserted from the 2d. garrison; they got down by a rope at *Zoca* battery, stripped, and took to the water. The enemy worked very hard till near twelve o'clock, when they were forced to leave off on account of our fire.

GARRISON ORDERS.

The regiments to be served with soft bread on Monday next.

Last night, between seven and eight o'clock, 8th. the enemy's cruizers fired at a vessel standing for the Bay, with the wind at west; the fire was returned by her, and soon after we heard an explosion of powder, so that we conclude, either the vessel or a *Spanish* cruizer blew up.

E. 3

The

1780 Nov. The enemy labour much at their advanced works, and notwithstanding these moon-light nights, and our frequent fire, they have extended their approaches towards the western shore. One of the bodies of the two soldiers that deserted the 2d instant, was found floating under the line-wall; another corpse was seen taken up on the strand, near Fort St. *Phillippe*.

10th. Last night arrived a settee, with wine and sundry articles from *Faro*. The Governor does not permit any of the people that come to the garrison, either from East or West, to land, until the Product-master has given them instructions with respect to the intelligence they may bring.

11th. We kept up a heavy cannonade from all the batteries that could bear upon the isthmus and lines, till after midnight. It is reported that several carts and working-parties were advancing, but it would be an impossibility for the enemy to execute any business under so brisk a fire.

12th. Wind N. W. This morning early, we discovered a small sail under the *Barbary* shore—three of the enemy's gun-boats set out from *Cabritta Point*, and as soon as they came near enough began to fire upon her, which she returned faintly, but kept standing her course; the boats afraid to board her, two xebecs stretched down upon her, and fired a broadside or two without doing any execution: the boats continued their fire until she got under the garrison guns, when our batteries at *Europa* and *Buena-Vista*, played so briskly, that they found it prudent to chase her no longer. She proves

proves to be the *Young Sabine*, Captain *McClog*, 1780. from *London*, in 18 days, with flour and other Nov. necessary articles, burthen 200 tons, and ten men. She was greatly damaged, and her sails almost torn to pieces, having received 29 shot which struck her in different parts during the action: — She had only one man slightly wounded.

This morning a *Minorca* settee arrived without any interruption, from among several *Spanish* cruizers, who took her to be one of their own vessels, till they saw her stand in.

Last night came in a settee from *Malaga* 14th. with fruit only — the *Spanish* cruizers convoyed her nearly under our guns, by means of a bribe, as the Patron relates, but we are rather suspicious of her being sent in by *Barcello*, to view our situation and learn the state of the garrison.

This morning a *Tartan*, a little to the eastward of the Rock, made a signal for assistance, but on account of the current, our boats could not weather round: she got almost under *Europa* guns, where she was boarded by a *Spanish* lugger's boat, but the crew made their escape in their own boat, and came in: she was from *Minorca* with supplies. The enemy are working day and night, and we keep firing as briskly.

Sale Prices of Provision, arrived here with Captain McClog:

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|-----|----|--------|
| Flour, per barrel | - | - | £.3 | 12 | 0 |
| <i>Cork</i> butter, per pound | - | - | 0 | 2 | 9 |
| <i>Gloucester</i> cheese, ditto | - | - | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Hams, ditto | - | - | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| | | | | | Bacon. |

THE SIEGE OF

| | | | | | |
|-------|------------------------|---|----|----|---|
| 1780. | Bacon, ditto per pound | - | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Nov. | Coals, per chaldron | - | 14 | 14 | 0 |
| 14th. | Herrings, per barrel | - | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| | Candles, per pound | - | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| | Porter, per hoghead | - | 6 | 10 | 0 |
| | Rum, per gallon | - | 0 | 18 | 0 |

This is a specimen of the prices as they are sold in lots by auction, but the buyers who retail them again make almost cent. per cent. You may therefore judge how those are situated who are obliged to purchase from the retailers.

About eight this morning, the *Malaga* settee received an order to leave the harbour, as the General entertains a doubt of her friendship.

15th. Last night, between eight and nine o'clock, several guns were briskly fired towards the entrance of the bay, and continued firing for the space of half an hour ; and this morning we perceived the enemy in possession of a brig, which we suppose to be an *English* vessel from the westward.

17th. The enemy's gun-boats, yesterday evening, arranged themselves in the bay, when on a signal from *Fort-Negro*, they opened their fire towards the *Rosa*, the shipping off *Ragged-staff*, and *Saluting-Battery*, which was as freely returned by the garrison and men of war ; most of their shot came on shore, but did no considerable damage. This attack greatly facilitated their operations on the isthmus ; for while our attention was directed towards their gun-boats, the enemy by land were assiduously employed in strengthening their advanced works and *Tower-battery*, for at day-break this morning

morning, we perceived some thousands of sand bags piled on their approaches, which will afford them the greatest cover from the fire of our batteries on the height. This well-planned operation gained them a considerable acquisition, and will much forward their ensuing labours.

Notwithstanding our heavy fire last night, 18th, the enemy extended their approaches considerably. They have begun forming a trench towards the *Centre-stone Guard-House* on the isthmus, to cover their men passing to and from the *Tower-Battery*.

GARRISON ORDERS.

Provisions from the 20th November to the 17th December.

MEN PER WEEK.

Beef, one pound and half; Pork, one ditto; Pease, one pint; Oatmeal, one ditto; Wheat, one ditto; Flour, 3-4ths pound; Raisins, half ditto; Rice, half pint; Butter, two ounces and half; Vincgar, 1-4th pint.

*Seven pound Bread served weekly to officers and men.**

The enemy, last night, again saluted us with 19th, a liberal discharge of twenty-six pounders, directed

* Though this allowance of Bread may be considered as sufficient, yet it being composed of ground Pease, Oatmeal, and damaged Wheat, without being sifted, a small quantity will weigh a pound, nor is it satisfying to men who perform constant laborious operations.

1780 erected at our shipping—The *New-Mole*, *South*, Nov. *King's*, and *Montague's* Bastions, and Saluting Battery, opened upon them with the greatest fury, and continued firing upwards of an hour—During the action, a gun unfortunately burst upon the *King's* Bastion, which killed the Bombardier of the detachment, and wounded another man—The head and thigh of the former was tore off—several pieces of the gun flew into the centre of the town, but happily did no mischief.

GARRISON ORDERS.

20th. *No lights to appear towards the Bay, in any house, barrack, guardhouse, or other building, after seven o'clock at night.*

21st. The enemy's gun-boats continue their nightly exhibitions—they did not injure us much by their fire last night. This day a soldier was missing, but not from any post on duty.

23d. The enemy's gun-boats, last night, again visited us with their usual generosity; but most of their shot fell short, so that the garrison and shipping made no return. The enemy, it is imagined, misjudged the distance, not seeing any lights on shore, agreeable to the orders of the 20th inst.

24th. The enemy continue their regular approaches, several parties employed in bringing down to their lines, fascines, gabions, empty casks, &c. They have begun a passage towards the garrison, and made a fortee between the seven and fourteen gun-batteries:—We annoy them as much as possible, with our small shells, during their nightly labours, for

for in the day time they do not carry on any 1780 visible work. In searching after a soldier, Nov. who has been missing since the 21st inst. (supposed to have deserted) the skeletons of two men were found behind the Rock—A warning to the inconsiderate from attempting to desert.

The gun-boats attacked us again last night 25th. —the *Enterprize* returned a few shot, but the garrison was silent, except towards the isthmus, where a general discharge of ordnance continued during the night. We set fire to part of their works, but not effectually; the enemy, however, extended their approaches some yards. The work on the strand, near *Fort Phillippe*, is now completely finished, being a battery of 12 guns, constructed for the annoyance of our shipping, between *Ragged Staff* and *New Mole*.—It appears to be about 12 or 14 feet high, and according to our opinion, well executed.

The enemy's gun-boats generously gave us a few rounds; they fired several of their shot into the town, without doing any mischief.—one fell into the Product-Master's quarters, behind *King's* bastion. Our shipping, yesterday, hauled into *New Mole*;—many are of opinion they have some intimation of a speedy attack, and others, that it is to prevent being so much exposed to the enemy's gun-boats. The *Spanish* approaches were much forwarded last night; the centinels at the *Tower* battery yesterday, fired several musquet shot at our gardeners, outside of *Landport*: they have plundered the gardens every night of late, but now, in the most audacious manner, they come

1780 come forward in the day time to gather vegetables—We occasionally fire wall-pieces, grape-shot, and small shells, but they seem so resolute, that all our efforts to make them desist cannot intimidate them. Several men have been seen to fall at the *Tower* battery, but we have not been fortunate enough to hit any of those that come forward—the walls of the wells in the gardens afford them excellent shelter.

29th. The *Danish* dogger that our boats brought in on the 11th of October failed yesterday for *St. Ubes* :—the *Spanish* cruizers picked her up, and carried her into *Algaziras*. The enemy's approaches are forwarding with an incredible rapidity. General *Alvarez*, who commands in the camp, visits the lines and forts once or twice a week—we know him by his uniform and suite, on which occasion we never fire into the *Spanish* lines—this is being politically complimentary.

30th. This morning came in a *Spanish* polacre, with shoes, leather, silk, &c. on board—she was taken to the eastward by the *Anglicana* privateer which is expected hourly.

Yesterday the remaining *Spanish* frigates, that were at *Algaziras*, failed to the west, so that the only ship of force which occupies that place is *Barcello's* xebec.—Two fireships have been brought out of *Guadaranque* river, and anchored at the *Orange Grove* ; several more are getting ready in the rivers, and some at *Algaziras*. It is probable that the enemy have received an account of our fleet being on its passage, and are preparing for their destruction.

I remain Your's, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XIV.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

AMIDST ¹⁷⁸⁰ impending dangers, heavy labours, perpetual alarms, constant watchings, lively hopes and expectations, I snatch a few moments to devote to your service. The period for the celebration of immortal VICTORY OR DEATH, hourly awaits us, and the glories and pomp of battle, in solemn steps approach: martial honours excite to valour, and the consideration of *Britain's* cause invigorates each bosom to repulse the combined arms of imperious *Gaul*, and proud *Iberia*, which glitter and adorn the *Spanish* plains.—

Although the god of war with aspect grim,
Exulting, strides around our batt'ring Rock,
And slaughter, with voracious jaws extended,
Waits with impatience for the long-wit'd prey.

This forenoon signals were made at the *Spanish* watch-towers of an enemy being to the eastward—a ship appeared standing for the rock, chased by two xebecs; two gun boats pushed out from *Algaziras*, and soon got near her—a fire immediately commenced between them, and continued till she came under *Europa* guns, without doing each other much damage. She proves to be the *Anglicana* letter of marque, of 26 guns, and 80 men, from *Smyrna* laden with silk. A small xebec was carried into *Algaziras*, with a *Spanish* ensign above

1780. above the *English*, many are of opinion that the Dec. was a *Minorca* vessel bound for this place.

3d. Yesterday evening we had a violent storm of hail, rain, lightning and thunder—it did not reach the *Spanish* camp, or they must have suffered considerably. Arrived a *Spanish* frigate at *Algaziras*.

4th. Wind. E. Last night, with a stiff breeze, the *Anglicana* sailed from hence, on her passage to *England*.—The Governor forwarded an express by her, and embarked a few worn-out soldiers.

5th. The weather having proved rainy and boisterous these three days past, the enemy have not been able to execute any work on the isthmus, nor has any of their cruizers made their appearance in the Bay. The Governor has ordered the pavement of the streets to be dug up as far as *Southport*: one hundred and ten inhabitants, (besides the soldiery) are employed in this work, viz. sixty Roman Catholics, thirty Jews, and twenty British; the stones are thrown over the line wall. The intention of this is, to prevent the havock that would ensue from the explosion of the enemy's shells, whenever they open from their batteries, as the weight with which they fall buries them under the surface of the ground, and when they burst, they scatter whatever is near them for seventy or eighty yards around.

8th. The enemy worked very hard last night, and greatly forwarded their approaches:—This morning they fired very brisk on our gardeners, who were forced to retire. A frigate from the west has anchored at the other side.

We

We fired this morning by way of experiment from *Old Mole Head*, six ten-inch shells out of howitzers, one of which penetrated into the centre of the *Tower* battery, which set it on fire, but the *Spaniards* very soon extinguished it. 1780 Dec. 9th.

The wind blowing strong E. and the sea too rough for the gun-boats, three settees arrived from *Minorca*, and a brig from *Leghorn*, with wine and other necessaries. None of the *Spanish* cruizers attempted to stir.

The enemy's covered-way is greatly extended, a few nights more will bring it home to the *Tower* battery. The garrison keep a constant cannonade on the *Spanish* working parties from the heights of *Willis's*.

The enemy's covered-way is not yet completed, owing to the rough and rainy weather; they have extended it very near the East line of their advanced work. This morning five pieces of cannon were laid in the sand behind the *Old Mole*. They have an elevation of 45 degrees, and it is imagined they will send shot (red hot) into the enemy's encampment and Artillery Park. 14th.

Last night the enemy compleated their covered-way: they have brought it close home to the East angle of the *Tower* battery—The weather having proved calm, the *Spanish* cruizers again cover the face of the Bay. 15th.

The enemy last night began another line of approach, extending from the left of the *Tower* battery, towards the *Centre-Stone* Guard-house. 16th.

1780

Dec.

16th.

GARRISON ORDERS.

The issues of provision for the next month, to be the same as last, except that only one week's oat-meal, at a pint each ration, can be spared, to leave the usual supply for the hospitals.

17th. The enemy extended their approaches some yards last night, and we, with our usual liberality of shot and shells, repaid their labours.—Several settees, and polâcres arrived from the East at *Algaziras*.

21st. Wind W. Last night a firing was heard from the Offing for near an hour, which proved to be the *Speed-well* cutter, with dispatches from *England*, engaging a xebec, which was under the necessity of putting into *Ceuta* to repair her damages; the *Speed-well* got safe into *New Mole*, the intelligence brought by her is at present kept secret.

23d. Arrived the *Hannah* privateer, from *England*, with cheese, beef, pork, butter, &c.—a very good supply. It must sensibly aggravate Admiral *Barcello*, notwithstanding the attention and alertness of his armed boats and cruziers, that yessels do frequently drop in here.

25th. This day the deserter that came in the 28th of September was sent to the *Provost*, he being, from indubitable facts, proved a spy. Several writings were found in his possession, inscribed to a *Spanish* officer, together with a plan of the garrison sewed up in a coarse cloth. Among other passages he says, that, “ Between the *Advance* and *Dead-man's hole*, the shore is so bold, that they may bring their shipping close to

to the Rocks, and land the men from off the 1780 yards; and, after this is done, to take possession Dec. of the travelling pieces of canon on *Wind-mill-bill*, draw them to the *South-parade*, and cannonade the town." Came in last night, the snow *Kitty* and *Polly* from *Liverpool*, with butter, flour, cheese, and potatoes; the latter sells at six rails per pound. Deserted a soldier in the night.

This day two *Moorish* vessels were carried 29th. into *Algaziras*; it is conjectured they were destined for this place.

This forenoon a séttee belonging to the enemy was becalmed off *Europa*, and our boats went out and boarded her—the crew escaped. —She had two pigs and some empty casks on board. It is some time since we had the satisfaction to hoist the *English* colours over the *Spanish*.

This morning a *Tartan*, laden with brandy and sugar, came in from *Minorca*. She brings no particular intelligence. Last night a serjeant deserted from the back of the Rock. No reason can be assigned for his committing this disgraceful act.

The enemy keep attentively at work, and forward their approaches and covered retreats with the utmost spirit; their loss of men does not discourage their operations—they seem determined to capture *Gibraltar*. Probably the next year will decide the contest. If they should be successful, and take the garrison, it will be a victory worthy of record; but we have not the least idea of this nature, our bat-

F teries

1780 series are so well mounted with heavy ordnance, Dec. and manned with *Britons*, that the name of 31st. being conquered only excites a desire for action.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours, &c.

LETTER XV.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1781 OUR prospect is but gloomy ; the enemy Jan. are very busy, and are still forwarding 10th. works of annoyance. It is conjectured as soon as the bomb-battery on the isthmus is completed, that the action will begin ; which I doubt not will terminate with glory to Great Britain.

This day, under flag of truce, the two *Moorish* gallies, that arrived the 29th of last month, were conducted from *Algaziras* to this place ; they have brought Consul *Logie*, and the *British* families and Jews from *Tangier*. We learn that hostilities are commenced by the *Barbarians* against us, and that the Emperor of *Morocco* has sold the ports of *Tangier* and *Tetuan* to his Catholic Majesty ; by this means the enemy conclude *Gibraltar* must be their own, for that famine will compel us to capitulate.— I hope their expectations will be frustrated, and that,

that, in spite of the united efforts of our foes, 1781
the *British* ensigns will continue flying here. Jan.

GARRISON ORDERS.

*The centries on the sea-line are not to suffer any 14th.
person to land under any part of the line-wall, or
upon the rocks towards the southward, or to remain
on shore there after first gun-fire, but to fire upon
whoever they may discover, either on shore, or at-
tempting to land after that time.*

Last night a *Spaniard* frigate was drove by a 15th.
storm under our walls, the garrison took her
for an *English* vessel, therefore did not fire up-
on her; a heavy rain and a thick haze coming
on she escaped, and at day break we perceiv-
ed her at anchor near the *Orange Grove*, in dis-
tress. The two *Moorish* gallies failed from
hence to the west.

GARRISON ORDERS.

*Ration of provisions from the 15th of January,
till the 11th of February.*

MEN PER WEEK.

*Bread, seven pounds; Beef, one ditto; Pork,
one ditto; Pease, one pint; Butter, two ounces and
a half; Cheese, six ounces, in lieu of half a pound
of Beef. The small articles the same as last month.*

Wind W. This morning arrived a brig 16th.
from the *Madeira Islands* with 80 pipes of wine.
She was drove from her moorings in a storm,

1781 with only six hands on board—Her cargo will Jan. prove a useful supply, and it is much wanted.

18. Wind W. S. W. Last night came in the *Tartar* privateer, from *England*, with dispatches from Government—she had a passage of sixteen days, and brings the intelligence that hostilities are commenced against the *Dutch*.—She had the good fortune to capture four *Dutch* vessels on her passage, and carried them into *Portugal*. The *Enterprize* frigate lying in the *New Mole* fired several shot at her, suspecting her to be an enemy, as she stood towards the bottom of the Bay, our former anchorage, but on her hailing in *English* the firing ceased—happily no damage was done.

General *Elliott* has ordered letters of marque to be issued against the *Dutch*, in the manner of those granted against *France* and *Spain*. The garrison received the above account with universal satisfaction; the officers and every individual seemingly felt a martial pleasure upon the occasion. Whether from it being the anniversary of Her Majesty's birth-day, or from this piece of information, the royal standard was hoisted, and a rejoicing observed by the garrison, shipping, boats, &c. by a discharge of cannon at one o'clock—the seamen manned and cheered, and the land-batteries saluted the enemy's works with ball.

20th. This morning, soon after day-break, the serjeant commanding the *Bay-side* (a detached guard) jumped over the pallisadoes, and walked gently on towards the enemy's works, seemingly undetermined, whether to go forward, or return to the garrison. The sentinels discharged

discharged their musquetry, but it is uncertain 1781
whether any of them took effect.

Last night, with a stiff breeze at N. W. the
Young Sabine and the *Hannah* privateers sailed
for *Minorca*. Admiral *Barcello* having missed
them this morning, detached a frigate to the
east, under all the sail she could crowd, but it
is not probable she will be able to come up
with them, they being near twelve hours sail
head.

Yesterday evening, a soldier deserted, sup- 25th.
posed from the heights of the Rock.

Wind S. E. Arrived the *Tartar*, a French 28th.
prize, of 26 guns, from *Leghorn*, with wine,
oil, brandy, &c. She picked up at sea the *Brili-
ant*'s long-boat, which makes us imagine that
frigate was forced to the eastward, with a strong
northerly wind.

Wind E. Last night sailed the *Tartar* pri- 29th.
vateer, that arrived here on the 18th inst. The
enemy threw several rockets from their tow-
ers, and this morning we observed a xebec re-
turning from the Gut without her prey. On
the land side the enemy continue their labours,
nor are we negligent in annoying them. Three
soldiers are missing, supposed to have deserted.

Wind S. E. Arrived a large sottee and a 30th.
Tartan from *Minorca*, with wine, &c. They
bring word of the *Brilliant*'s safe arrival in that
port.

Wind S. W. Yesterday evening sailed a brig 31st.
from hence, bound to *Mahon* with supplies.
The enemy extended their approaches about
five yards last night, and threw up several
heaps of sand.—Some infantry have marched
into their camp, reported to have landed at
Cadiz.

1781 *Cadiz.* Admiral *Barcello* remains at anchor, Jan. but his cruizers frequently come over to peep at our works, and observe the situation of our navy.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Yours &c.

LETTER XVI.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

Feb. 1. **N**OTWITHSTANDING every effort, and the most studious inventions of annoyance that possibly could be adopted or executed, we have hitherto found ourselves inadequate to retard the progress of the enemy's operations; and to do justice to our assailants, they have invariably, from the period of their first labours, to the present forwardness of their approaches, shewn a martial spirit, and undaunted resolution.

The enemy extended another branch of their approach last night, composed of fascines and fand-bags. We fired in the course of an hour 500 round of shot and shells. This morning a soldier deserted from the garrison.

2d. Our men of war's boats went round to the back of the Rock this forenoon, where they found the bodies of the soldier missing yesterday,

day,

day, and the serjeant mentioned 31st of December last, both in a shattered condition. It is astonishing, notwithstanding the tremendous instances so frequently exhibited, they have not sufficient terror, to prevent men from endeavouring to escape to the enemy. 1781 Feb.

This morning at day break, came in a deserter from the enemy:—He says, “ I hat the *Spaniſh General* has received an order to recall the working parties, in consequence of a pro-
position made to the Court of *Great Britain*, of six millions of money, and a free trade for the garrison.” There is not any reliance placed upon his intelligence. If such an order had been received, General *Alvarez* would have communicated it to the Garrison. The working parties are not very numerous, or else they keep much under cover. 8th

Wind E. Arrived the *Salisbury* privateer, 11th. from *Minorca*—A large xebec, and several gal-
lies endeavoured to slip between her and the land.

The enemy appear to be in motion on the 14th. opposite side: several signals hung out from their watch towers, and their cruizers are re-
turning to the bay. We are in hopes that the British fleet are not far off.

Wind N: W. Passed by about thirty sail of 15th. neutrals; there being a thick haze we could not perceive whether they were ships of force. We suppose the signals made yesterday was oc-
casioned by their appearance off the coast,

GARRISON ORDERS.

Ration of Provision from Feb. 12, to March 11,
1781.

MEN.

1781

MEN PER WEEK.

Feb.

Bread, seven pounds; Beef, one ditto; Pork, one ditto; Butter, two ounces and half; Oil $\frac{1}{4}$ pint; Cheese, six ounces; pease one pint; Beans one ditto; Wheat, one ditto; Rice, six ounces; Raisins, six ounces.

18th. Wind strong E. About 11 o'clock last night, the *Salisbury* got under sail:—None of the enemy's cruizers were out on account of the stiff breeze and rough sea.

19th. This afternoon a brig arrived from *Minorca*, in four days and a half, with flour, wine, sugar, and brandy. Two xebecs in vain attempted to approach her as the wind blew very strong from the land. She brings intelligence that the *French* had blockaded *Minorca*.

21st. Last night came in another brig from *Minorca*.—It must greatly chagrin Admiral *Barcello* to view the shipping drop in so providentially, and he incapable of detaching his cruizers to the east.—Very stiff breezes have continued since the 18th inst. at E. and N. E.

27th. Last night a brig with four *Genoese* on board slipped over from *Algaziras* with a few trifling articles. The manner of her coming, and the smallness of her cargo, rather excites a suspicion. The Governor, ever attentive to the safety of the garrison, and doubting the real intention of the crew, has ordered a guard to mount on board her daily, until the affair is more thoroughly investigated.

28th. Last night under a very brisk fire, the enemy threw up a great quantity of sand upon their fascine

fascine works. It is supposed their approaches 1781 are about twenty feet high. We this day directed our fire to the west entrance of the 28th. lines, as many covered carts were observed passing there.

This month has closed without indulging our expectations of success, but the events of it do not dispirit our hopes of happier consequences to our future efforts.

I am, &c.

L E T T E R XVII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

ART and Ingenuity are with us so perverted from all benevolent exertions, that one would be induced to suppose from the destructive nature of our experiments, that the ruin of man was the sole purpose of their efforts. The over-ruling necessity which orders our preparations for war and havock, cannot rob the mind of its distresses on contemplating the lamentable occasions which render indispensable Quadrants, Spirit-levels, and instruments of various forms and machinery, which adorn the batteries, for the more exact and certain method of killing. Every one seems anxious to find out the safest, quickest, and surest method of dispatch, in the elevation and depression of the ordnance. I suppose in a few weeks more practice, they will be so expert

1781. pert in levelling a gun, that should a *Spaniard*
Mar. 5 raise his head above the epaulement,* it will be immediately severed from his shoulders; for an emulative spirit has dispersed itself to such a pitch among our artiſts, that almost every day produces some new contrivance for the promotion of slaughter!

Wind E. Last night arrived a ſettee from *Minorca*, with fundry useful articles for the garrison; the Patron relates, that three *French* frigates are cruizing off the harbour to prevent ſuccours going in or coming out of that place.

7th. This morning, a little before the new guard came to relieve the old *Landport* guard, a ſoldier on duty there jumped over the pallisadoes near the gate, and ran off. The ſeveral guards fired 1143 musquet shot at him, beside grape. He entered the *Spanish* lines with every demonstration of joy, waving his hat.

9th. Yesterday and this day we had ſeveral hours artillery-practice on the batteries at the enemy's works; with the new-invented Quadrants and Levels:—the ordnance was well directed—much ſucces is promised from the merit of the ſeveral instruments under trial. The enemy, with great earnestness, became ſpecta-tors from Forts *St. Phillippe* and *Barbary*, as our guns only played upon the advance-works on the iſthmus.

GARRISON ORDERS.

11th. *The rations of provisions from the 12th of March to the 8th of April, the ſame as laſt month, except that no wheat will be delivered.*

Wind

* A part of fortification, which covers breast-high, composed of earth, gabions, &c.

Wind E. Came in a polacre and a *Tartan*, 17th from *Minorca*, with wine and brandy; the March latter received several shot from one of the 16th, enemy's galleys that endeavoured to cut her off.—The French continue the investment of *Minorca*.

The enemy on the land side are attentive to their operations, which we endeavour to check by a smart fire; we suppose they are mounting ordnance in their advanced works. Yesterday a soldier deserted from the garrison.

Arrived a *Tuscan* polacre, and the *Tartar* 18th. cutter from *Minorca*, with brandy and caravans.—A xebec stood over from *Ceuta*, but too late to prevent their entrance.

Yesterday evening, the *Tuscan* polacre sailed 22d. on her passage to *Lisbon*, but the enemy took her in the night, and this morning carried her into *Algaziras*.

Came in a half-xebec (a prize) taken by one 26th. of the *Minorca* privateers. She says the French frigates so closely watch the entrance into that harbour, that it is almost impossible for a vessel coming in or going out, to escape. The French naval force is too powerful at *Mahon* for the British to attack them.

Last night (Wind W. N. W.) the *Enterprize* 29th. frigate sailed from hence on her passage to *Minorca*. The repeated intelligence of the French having blockaded that Port, occasioned her departure, and we flatter ourselves when she arrives there, our force will be equal to theirs; the *Brilliant* and *Minorca* frigates being already on that station.—This forenoon, a brig, half-hay over, was taken by the enemy's cruisers; the crew, being nine in number, escaped in a boat:

1781 boat: they mention, "That the *British* fleet March had twice put to sea, but was forced to return, owing to bad weather, and contrary winds."

They brought some poultry in their boat, which will afford them a present supply; the fowls sold for four dollars each, equal to twelve shillings and nine-pence; pigeons, three dollars per couple, equal to nine shillings and seven-pence; ducks, eight dollars four trials per couple, equal to one pound six-shillings and six-pence. Every species of provision is sold at the same rate, and most of the salt meat in the garrison is quite rotten.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately Yours.

LETTER XVIII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

April 3d. THE garrison are noisy with tumultuous joy, occasioned by the arrival of a cutter last night from the West: she brings the captivating and enlivening intelligence of the *British* fleet, for the relief of the garrison, being on their passage. We seem to be another people—no depression of spirits—every countenance is adorned with satisfactory smiles—a social greeting of friends and acquaintances, congratulatory

congratulatory of the happiness about to be experienced.

This morning two fire-ships were removed from *Algaziras* towards *Cabritta-Point*, intended by the enemy to run in among our fleet: three others are at *Orange Grove*, and several ready in the rivers. We are apprehensive of their being a great annoyance to our shipping.

Last night sailed the *St. Fermin* floop, the 4th. *Brilliant's* tender, and a settee, for *Minorca*. Two xebecs immediately put to sea in pursuit of them, with a fine breeze at West. The enemy are very busy on the opposite side, in getting their fire-ships out of the rivers.

This evening four armed boats, composed 6th. of a detachment of five men from each regiment, under the command of a naval officer, proceeded from the *New Mole* on an expedition, to cut out the two fire-ships which lay at anchor under *Cabritta*. It continued rainy and cloudy till they had got within a mile of them, when, on a sudden, the clouds dispersed, and *Luna* reflected so great a light, that they were under the necessity of returning without accomplishing the business, the enemy having discovered the boats, and made a position of defence.

Rations of provisions from the 9th of April to the 6th of May.

MEN PER WEEK.

Beef, thirteen ounces; pork, thirteen ditto; butter, two ounces and half; raisins, twelve ounces; pease, half pint; beans, one ditto; wheat, one ditto; rice, four ounces; oil, 1-4th pint.

Bread

1781 April 1 Bread issued to officers and men one pound and half every two days.

8th. Wind W. About eleven this forenoon, we discovered a small sail under the *Barbary* shore: about two o'clock the enemy's squadron weighed and stood for her, consisting of one xebec, one galley, one cutter, and 15 large gun-boats, (mounting twenty-six pounders;) as soon as they had reached her, they opened furiously both with round and grape shot, which she as briskly and heroically returned; broadside for broadside continued till she got under cover of the guns, when she received repeated and loud huzzas from the garrison. It is remarkable, notwithstanding the heavy cannonade, not a man was killed, and only a few wounded. She proves to be the *Eagle* cutter from *Port-Glasgow*, but brings no account about the fleet.

12th. Last night, between eleven and twelve o'clock, arrived off the *Mole Head*, the *Kite* cutter; she being challenged by the officer of the *Mole* guard, loudly answered, "From the fleet," which immediately spread like wildfire throughout the garrison; Morpheus resigned his sovereignty, and slumber was forgotten; each found sufficient employ and satisfaction in conversing on the interesting subject.—We conjectured in the evening the *British* fleet was near at hand, as the enemy's towers and coast were greatly illuminated, and a number of rockets thrown up at *Cabritta*. At six this morning the fleet appeared in the *Offing*, arranged in admirable order, standing for the garrison, with a gentle breeze at S. W.

A shout

A shout of joy instantly ensued from every corner, battery, and height, on the discovery. April 12th. About nine, eighteen of the enemy's gun-boats sailed out from *Algaziras*, but kept pretty well under the land: at ten they began a brisk fire from the boats and battery at the point, upon our shipping; two frigates bore down upon them, and played so warmly, that the enemy made to land. The battery at *Sandy Bay*, and the Island at *Algaziras* (mounted with forty-two pounders) endeavoured to annoy our shipping, but to little purpose, as most of their shot fell wide. One ship has just dropt anchor.—A call to arms prevents my further writing; the enemy have opened all their batteries on the town; confusion and consternation are every where to be seen!—Adieu, dear brother, I must hasten to the alarm post.

* * * * *

Six o'clock in the evening.

The necessary dispositions having been made by the Governor, for the defence of the garrison, I again resume the subject on the several transactions of the day, (during the few moments I am unemployed from duty) and shall endeavour as far as the noise of rattling cannon and bursting shells will permit, to give you a faint description of the occurrences which took place about a quarter before twelve this forenoon, when the enemy perceived the men of war had passed the Gut, and a few entered

1781 entered the Bay, they opened all their batteries, April (in the lines and on the isthmus) with shot and shells on the town. The bombardment commenced on a signal from the *Orange Grove*, whilst the inhabitants and soldiery were amusing themselves with the aspect of the shipping. This sudden alarm spread universal consternation, and the joy predicted on the arrival of the fleet was now turned into an undescribable sorrow.—The soldiers hastened to their posts, and the inhabitants to their houses, many of which were instantly in flames from the effect of the enemy's shells: the obviousness of grief on their part is feelingly expressive;—their property consuming with rapidity—the uncertainty of self-preservation—the anxiety for the safety of their relatives and dearest kindred—the irretrievability of recovering the greater part of their valuables; add to this, the mangled spectacles of some already fallen from the cannonade, impelled them to fly from such a scene of horror, and if possible, secure a place of shelter, however indifferent: precipitation marked their footsteps, and the confluence of men, women, and children at *South-port Gate*, prevented a considerable time, numbers from obtaining a speedy passage, which when they accomplished, they fled in crowds to the heights of the Rock, out of the reach of the enemy's land fire. Here appalled, they mingled together indiscriminately, within sight of their former dwellings, now in a state of incineration—Commisserable situation!—shells explode over their heads—cries echo—and vivid flashes pierce the clouds of smoke that cover devestation;

tion ; the thunder of the cannon reverberate 1781 dreadfully to their ears, and every concussion April renews their trepidation. 12th.

I must now proceed to give you some account of the casualties collected. A séttee was sunk by a shell lying at the *Tanks*, near the *New Mole*—the enemy's shot drop but short of that place. A shell which exploded on the hill, wounded Lieutenant *Boag* of the Royal Artillery. A serjeant and several men wounded in the lines ; the serjeant's hand was torn off by the violence of the shell :—three men wounded at *Grand Battery* ; two at *South Port* ; three men killed in *King's Lines*, and one at *South-Port*, by a piece of a shell that burst in the air. A shell which entered a house in *Southport-street*, in the explosion blew a *Genoese* woman out of a window, but fortunately she only received a bruise by the fall.

The enemy are endeavouring to burn our shipping, by throwing shells with a view to reach the *New Mole*. The greater part of the English men of war, keep cruizing off *Europa*. Admirals *Darby*, *Digby*, and *Ras* are in the Bay. Our town appears from the heights at the *Southward*, to be insuppressively on fire, and the fulgent blaze truly horrific :—the total demolition of the houses is thought to be inevitable. We are prepared for the enemy, should they attempt during the night to storm the garrison. Detachments having been sent to reinforce the several guards, and additional picquets mounted in the town districts. 13th.

The tremendousness of the cannonade last night (supported with the utmost vivacity on both sides) and which still continues with unabating

1781 bating rage, exhibited a truly grand and awful spectacle of war. The varied repercussions April 13th. from the Rock, of exploding shells, and the reiterated sound of cannon and mortars, were such as stunned the air, whilst the eye traced with pain the ravaging effect, and gazed with anguish on the continual flash of ordnance, spreading desolation in every direction.

The town is deserted by all but the soldiery, who amidst the roar of guns, mortars, howitzers, and shells, are busy in retorting on the enemy the woes of war. One minute a shot batters a house about your ears, and the next a shell drops at your feet; here you lie prostrate, waiting the mercy of the explosion; if you escape unhurt, you are perfectly stunned, and almost suffocated with an intolerable stench of powder and sulphur. On every hand slaughtered objects lie before you, harrowing up the tender feelings of the soul: one loses an arm or leg, another cut through the body, a third is blown to pieces with the bursting of a shell: indulgent parents lamenting the loss of sons, and women and children for husbands and fathers. Here we behold passions unfeigned, grief without mockery, and distress without a veil.

A detachment is ordered to march, to reinforce a part of the works considered too weak for a strong attack, or to relieve another who have stood twenty-four hours facing an inveterate foe; probably before they reach the post my comrade falls by my side, my acquaintance receives a wound, and my best of friends loses the arm that was ever ready to cherish and supply.

No

No one is exempt from duty : a husband is 1781. called upon ; the service demands his immediate presence, nor dare he stay to take his 13th. farewell by imprinting an affectionate kiss ; the thundering *Mars*, envious of his felicity, raises the javelin for destruction, and levels his commiserating partner while he is absent ; not satisfied with lopping off so material a branch of happiness, but extends his decisive commands over their tender offspring. On his return—O sensibility ! what a ravaging scene is presented to his view ! let imagination conceive ;—a wife that soothed his every uneasiness, and softened the rigours of his fate, alas ! no more—his dear beloved children, that prattled with a thousand innocent and engaging smiles, and lisped forth their duteous accents, that tended to dissipate the heart-corroding cares of life, and promising to be a comfort in his aged days, are now reduced to a lifeless lump of clay. Will not his heart break forth in exclamation, ‘*O my beloved wife ! my charming son ! my amiable daughter ! not suffered to kiss those lips while warm, nor to press you to a bosom to which you was ever dear !*’

What inexpressible anguish must the performers feel in the trying scenes and tragical exhibitions, delineated with the most descriptive wretchedness and misery. This must move pity in every heart, if not steeled against every humanizing principle.

I cannot authentically learn the number already fallen by the cannonade ;—various are the conjectures. An account is just arrived, that Surgeon *Chisholm* of the 56th regiment, has lost a leg by a shot, and that *Lieutenant*

1781 Budworth of the 72d. regiment, is wounded.
April 13th. Two soldiers, and a boy of a wine-house, this instant killed at *Southport*, by the explosion of a shell. The road from that gate to the naval hospital, is occupied by men carrying wounded soldiers from the batteries. Report says, several persons are killed in town. The regiments not lodged in bomb proofs in the town, are to receive camp equipage, and remove to their quarters marked out on the rising ground from *South Barracks* towards *Windmill-hill*.

14th. The fire from the enemy is computed at about three thousand shot and shells every twenty-four hours, which probably surpasses the heaviest cannonade recorded in history. The damage done to the town is beyond credibility; the greatest part of the houses and effects consumed, and others blown into ruins by the bursting of the shells.

This forenoon, eleven *Spani^{sh}* gun-boats began a fire upon our shipping, and carried away the foretop-mast of one of the men of war. These squadrons of gun-boats (each mounted with a twenty-six pounder) contribute their quota to render our days and nights infinitely miserable and alarming, marking the several encampments for proscription, seizing on our retired hours like nightly robbers, filling the mind with the most agonizing apprehension, awakening the garrison from the repose wearied nature requires; and before you can scarce open your eyes, and prepare for the alarm, death stares you in the face, or you feel a precious limb mangled, or hastily torn away.

The frequent interspersions of shot, and the ignition occasioned by the enemy's shells, which

which incessantly are poured on every part of 1781. the Rock within their reach, is beyond description dreadful. No place of safety! Not 14th, one spot, but these unfriendly intruders visit, spreading mortality in their circumrotation; volleys of shocking misery are hourly discharged, and the wearied soldiery, though overpowered with fatigue from continual military toil, are much prevented from enjoying the few hours allotted for repose, which a small part of the garrison only are exempted from duty, in the daily proportion of guards, picquets, &c. Every one finds an interest in watching—not one moment's security. If slumber should close your eyes, probably they might not view the enlivening rays of Aurora in the morning.

The wounded men are numerously carrying from the town districts to the Naval Hospital. Almost every hour furnishes a new instance of the cruelty of war. One man has now passed me in a mangled situation too dreadful to describe. Ensign *Martin* of the 39th regiment is wounded, but not dangerously. A few soldiers killed this day, and a great number wounded.

The *British* fleet have not yet come to anchor, but keep hovering round the Rock. The enemy support the cannonade with unmitting spirit, and their artillery seem to direct their sole attention to the consuming of the town. The damage already done would fall far short of any estimate that at present can be made. The batteries which were deemed sufficiently strong, share in the general ruin, and parties are labouring at the repair in the most

1781 most imminent danger. The firing from April 15th. the garrison is masterly and well supported, carrying into the enemy's lines and works the sad effects of internecion, which is evident from the number of wounded we observe frequently conveying to their camp on litters.

Apathy alone can view the situation of the inhabitants on the heights of the Rock without pain ; the most fortunate are only in possession of a thin piece of canvas or sail-cloth to screen them from the scorching heat of the day, and excessive dew of the night. Not any conveniency to dress the small portion of food some have procured, whilst others are in a famishing condition. Judge, dear Brother, their dreadful state from the following fact which, though a soldier, drew the compassionate tear from my eyes. Mrs. M—, a merchant's lady, came to the encampment with a child in her arms, accident threw me in her way, when with a voice that must have melted the most unfeeling heart, she supplicated for a little salt broth for her infant : I ran instantly and procured what she requested, and seated her in my small tent. She assured me she had tasted nothing for the two days past, and that the preservation of her dear infant, induced her alone to visit the encampment. I left her with the small repast I had procured, and retired behind the tent. But how can language paint the lively emotions of my heart, in hearing her offer up a prayer to heaven for my preservation ; I confess I was unmanned—a merchant's lady three days ago in possession of affluency, now reduced to total want, and

to

to solicit from a *soldier* a portion of his small 1781 allowance! Let this, Brother, be a lesson to April you to receive with thanksgiving the abundant bounties of Providence, dispensed to man. 15

Havock still continues!—Several of the inhabitants in endeavouring to save part of their property in town, have lost their lives. A corporal had his hand shot off as he was calling from a window to a man in the street. A soldier was found so miserably torn by a shell, that he could not be known only by part of his dress. A shot killed two soldiers this morning, one of whom was brushing his shoes for guard. Surgeon *Kruger* of *De La Mott's* regiment, was wounded by a splinter of a shell. A *Genoese* youth, endowed with every amiable qualification, on the point of nuptial celebration, was unfortunately killed. The lady to whom his addresses were paid, fled on the intelligence to the place where he had fallen, and clasped his mangled body in her arms.—She was carried home in a state of insensibility.

The seamen and soldiers are assiduously employed in unloading the shipping, as the fleet is not intended to be detained here longer than the provision is landed. The parties work day and night—one from sun-rise to sun-set, and another from sun-set to sun-rise.—The town is become a heap of ruins—the greatest part of the houses are either burnt, or battered down. The showers of shot from the enemy are beyond credibility—such perdurable discharges, with such unbounded impetuosity, that the ear is stunned with the multiplied sounds.

I cannot

1781 I cannot, dear Brother, omit penning the April following conversation between two soldiers in 15th. *Irish-Town* yesterday. I met *Jack Careless** in the street, singing with uncommon glee (notwithstanding the enemy were firing with prodigious warinthe) part of the old song,

“ A soldier’s life’s a merry life,
“ From care and trouble free.”

He ran to his comrade with eagerness, and presenting his bottle, cried, *D--n me, if I don’t like fighting : I’d like to be ever tanning the Dons : plenty of good liquor for carrying away—never was the price so cheap—fine stuff—enough to make a miser quit his gold.* Why, *Jack*, said he, what have you been about ? With an arch grin he replied, *That would puzzle a heathen philosopher, or yearly almanack-maker, to unriddle—I scarce know myself. I have been constantly on foot and watch, half-starved, and without money, facing a parcel of pitiful Spaniards. I have been fighting, wheeling, marching, and counter-marching ; sometimes with a firelock, then with a handspike, and now my bottle, brandishing it in the air. I am so pleased with the melody of great guns, that I consider myself as a Roman general, gloriously fighting for my country’s honour and liberty.* A shell that instant burst, a piece of which knocked the bottle out of his hand : with the greatest composure he replied (having first graced it with an oath) *This is not any loss, I have found a whole cask by good luck (and brought him to view his treasure.)* But, *Jack*, says he, are you not thankful to God for your preservation ? *How do*

* A soldier well known in the Garrison by that name.

do you mean, answered Jack? Fine talking of God 1782 with a soldier, whose trade and occupation is cutting April throats: Divinity and slaughter found very well together, they gingle like a crack'd bell in the hand of a noisy crier: our King is answerable to God for us; I fight for him. My religion consists in a firelock, open touch-hole, good flint, well-rammed charge, and seventy rounds of powder and ball: This is the military creed. Come, comrade, drink Success to the British arms. On his asking him for a glass, he seemed surprised, Why, (says he,) you may well know there is not one to be had, but here is something that will do as well, (and he took up a piece of a shell;) here is a cup fit for a monarch; this was not purchased with gold or friendship, but with the streams of our countrymen's blood. Having filled the piece of shell, he gave it to his comrade to drink. Come Jack, (said he) Here is King George and Victory! And he that would not drink the same (replied he) I'd give him an ounce of lead to pay Charon to ferry him over the river Styx.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately Yours.

GARRISON ORDERS.

Full allowance of Beef and Pork, five ounces of Butter, quarter of a pint Oil, one pint Pease, one ditto Kidney Beans, two pints of Wheat, and twelve ounces of Raisins, to be served to-morrow.

LETTER

LETTER XIX.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1781 April 19th. **T**HE bombardment is kept up vigorously by the enemy ; a continuation of unceas- ing firing, particularly directed to *Willis's Heights*, the King's and Prince's lines—*Land-port* and *Waterport* also sustain their share. The flag of *England* seems to enrage our opponents, as they have directed three pieces of cannon to play upon *Flag-staff Guard*—one shot struck the standard this forenoon. Believe me, you would smile could you have seen the readiness of the Royal Artillery to replace the damage, amidst the vivacious discharges of the *Dons*, whose vengeance seemed more forcibly roused, by our men immediately nailing on the flag.

The regiments whose quarters in town have been destroyed, are now encamped upon the different heights of the Rock at the southward, from the rising ground at the back of the Barracks, extending to the gate at *Windmill-hill*.—The inhabitants have begun erecting temporary sheds—some in the Gullies between *Buena Vista* and *Europa*, others on *Windmill-hill*, nor is there scarce any part of the Rock, out of the reach of the enemy's land fire, but what is covered with marquees, tents, huts, &c. &c. Timber is taken from the ruins of the town to answer this necessary business, and the employment occasioned thereby keeps all hands busy. A pleasure boat came over this morning from the *Orange Grove*, and remained at long

long gun shot distance near an hour, viewing 1781 (as we suppose) the variety of buildings, which April must exhibit an odd appearance from the Bay. 19th.

The military in the *Spanish* camp assemble in the front of their tents every evening, and bodies of infantry march immediately after into their lines ; a reinforcement of officers and men are therefore detached to town, exclusive of the daily guards, as we cannot but expect a speedy attack from the land side.— General *Elliott* has prepared to receive them with military politeness, not sparingly, but amply provided for their reception ; an excellent repast of shells of different sizes, round and grape shot, * hand grenades, carcasses, &c. are ready to be served up at the shortest notice, for the entertainment of General *Alvarez* and his troops, when they attempt the expugnation of the Rock.

The following List contains the number of officers and men who mount guard and pique every day.

| | Capt. | Subs. | Serjs. | Cors. | Dms. | Prvs. |
|--------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|------|-------|
| Town guards | 8 | 14 | 49 | 54 | 15 | 521 |
| South guards | 3 | 7 | 15 | 20 | 9 | 270 |
| Artillery | 1 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 0 | 106 |
| | 12 | 24 | 73 | 85 | 24 | 897 |
| Piquets | 0 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 689 |
| Total | 12 | 37 | 86 | 100 | 37 | 1586 |

N. B. The Field Officers are not included in the above number.

Last

* A small hollow globe of iron, filled with powder, and fired by a fuze ; they are thrown by the hand, and are of great annoyance in battle. Children may throw them over a wall.

1781 Last night a soldier deserted from *Prince's*-
April lines *Guard*, how he escaped is impossible to
19th. conjecture, as neither rope, nor ladder could
be discovered.

This forenoon arrived a ship from the West. Admiral *Barcello* is very quiet on the opposite side, nor has he shewn the least indication to run in any of his fire-ships among the shipping already anchored. Our men of war keep tacking backwards and forwards, which very much disconcerts the enemy in the plans they had adopted for their destruction. The fire-ships which lay at *Cabritta*, are removed to *Algazras*, where the *Spanish* squadron have hauled close under the land. The fire from the lines and isthmus continues without intermission, excepting from twelve to two o'clock at noon, when they rather slacken to cool their ordnance, at which time General *Elliott* takes the opportunity of relieving the town guards.

20th. Admiral *Lockhart Ross*, has been indefatigable in landing the provision. His attention to the soldiery evinces the goodness of his heart, both as an officer and a man of feeling. He learned that a soldier was confined for taking a biscuit, he liberated the man with a severe admonishing; then calling to a Cooper, directed him to open a cask of biscuit, and butter, which he distributed among them: " *My good lads, (said he) steal nothing—your countenances speak the hardships you have suffered, and whilst I command here you shall have plenty to eat.*" —He also caused several baskets of cheese to be opened, which he delivered with a countenance expressive of the satisfaction he felt.

Wind

Wind N. E. This forenoon Admiral *Darby* 1781 made signal for sail; several vessels got under April weigh from *Rosa*, and in the evening they 21st. were all out of sight. The *Spanish* towers, as usual, spread the alarm; the enemy discharged their ordnance with great fury, intimating, that now our floating castles were departed, they had nothing to obstruct the exercise of their malignant rage. They have damaged our works in several parts, which we carefully repair during the course of the night. We have not as yet lost many men in the execution of our operations.

The enemy continue their brisk fire on the 23d. garrison, and this day Lieutenant *Cunningham* of the 39th regiment was much wounded; it is imagined by the faculty it will prove mortal. A soldier this day had both his legs shot off; he seemed rejoiced at the loss, and exclaimed, *I am now dismissed from the drill and black hole*; which his negligence rendered indispensably necessary often to inflict upon him.

This day a thirteen-inch shell, fired from the enemy's works, dropped in the *King's Bastion*, and wounded seven men; three of them in a very bad condition.—Our batteries are rather remiss in returning the fire, reserving the ammunition for other purposes.

Wind E. Arrived from *Minorca*, the *Brilliant*, *Porcupine*, *Enterprize*, and *Minorca* frigates, two small xebecs, and sixteen sail of *Tartans* and settees, with a supply of wine, biscuit, caravances,* &c. for government account. Admiral *Barcello*, no doubt, was desperately

* A small bean, about the size of a kidney-bean.

1781 April 27th. perately enraged at the arrival of this unexpected convoy : after having loosed his sails, and made every appearance of putting to sea, he fired a gun, which was answered at *Ceuta*, as a signal for them to keep a sharp look out to the eastward ; his sails were then nimbly furled again.

Came in two deserters from the enemy's Walloon Guards. They bring the intelligence that the *Spaniards* are expeditioufly getting in readiness scaling ladders, and all necessary equipments for an attack, and that in a few months we may depend upon being vigorously stormed both by land and sea. This is looked upon as contemptible presumption : for *Britons*, whilst led on by veteran chiefs, and gallant heroes, will ever defend these envied battlements and walls from *Spain's* approaches, and compel them to return, after all their pomp and parade, amidst disgust and disappointment of the desired glory. The enemy's gun and mortar-boats came over last night, and fired upon the inhabitants retreats, and troops encampments ; on this occasion, a soldier's wife was killed, as she was hastily dressing herself in the tent, in order to seek some place of refuge. Some others were slightly wounded.

28th. This morning, their being a calm sea, the gun and mortar-boats gave us a pretty brisk fire. The garrison and shipping kept up a hot cannonade upon them, but unfortunately they killed one soldier, and wounded six others, of different regiments. They fired between two and three hundred rounds.

At ten o'clock this forenoon, a party assembled at the lower extremity of the *Old Mole* (or

(or Devil's Tongue) to make an experiment of 1781 reaching the Spanish camp, from two sea-mortars planted there. The first shell we threw fell 28th. within a few yards of the East angle of their grand magazine, which seemed to fill the enemy with consternation; not imagining it was practicable to have annoyed them in that part from the garrison, the distance being 3056 yards. We threw several, which fell in different parts of their encampment—one burst in the air about half way, the splinters of which were seen to fall near the shore above the battery (now called the *Black Battery*) on the right of *St. Phillippe*. It is reported, the intention of this is, to convince the enemy that we shall be able to repay the compliment upon their encampment, whenever their boats visit ours.

The southward heights of the garrison were lined with a number of the inhabitants, who willingly became spectators (out of the reach of danger) of the experimental exhibition, impatiently waiting the discharge; but when they perceived the shell fall upon the Spanish land, they repeatedly gave loud acclamations, happy in their minds that we had found out a means of annoying the enemy's camp.

Wind E. Last night sailed the *Enterprize* 29th. and *Minorca* frigates, for *England*, with several other ships under convoy: the enemy have not detached any of their shipping from *Algeciras* in pursuit of them. A signal was observed this morning on the tower at *Cabritta*, which we imagine was intended to alarm the cruizers at *Cadiz*. Admiral *Barcello* seems less attentive in watching the port, as very few of his

1781 his cruizers are out. From the land side we April are plentifully supplied with shot and shells ; their batteries continue raging nearly the whole twenty-four hours of each day. The enemy are profusely liberal, and, with an unexampled generosity, repay the cannonade.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XX.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

May 1 A MIDST the clamour of war, shells bursting, shot flying, and houses burning, a continual scene of sulphur, smoke, and fire ; whenever I have any hours unemployed from duty, I dedicate them to your service. Death stares me in the face every minute, and therefore what I write you may look upon as the sincere sentiments of my heart. The streets of the town are like a desert, and almost every house burnt, or torn with shot and shells. In some parts the shot and broken pieces of shells are so thick, that in walking your feet does not touch the ground. The enemy have kept up a fire these twenty days past, and it is believed, before they cease, our small arms will be busily employed. The enemy's gun and mortar-boats are firing from the Bay. A shell, which now burst, forced me to run with my papers in my hand, to avoid danger.—The groans of one in misery has reached my ears — I must

—I must haste to his assistance. On my going ¹⁷⁸¹ to the other side of a traverse, I found a soldier, with both legs broke by a piece of the shell which occasioned my retreat—a miserable spectacle! The gun-boats are gone, having fired about three hundred rounds at the southward. I do not hear of any particular damage done.

This forenoon a soldier was executed for ^{5th.} plunder, at the place where the fact was committed, with a label upon his breast denoting the same. He was left hanging till sun-set.

The gun and mortar-boats paid us a general ^{8th.} salute; the garrison and shipping made a return:—happily not any damage was done on our side.

This day the enemy made a shameful sea-attack: after near two hours discharge of their ordnance, they triumphantly retreated to spread their great exploits and bold achievements along their coast, without having thrown a shot or shell on shore. We imagine that they must have suffered considerably on the ^{12th.} 8th from our fire.

The gun and mortar-boats last night again ^{13th.} disturbed us with their firing, but only damaged a few huts in our encampment. These nocturnal expeditions are of great annoyance to the garrison, as the duty of the soldiery is very fatiguing, being constantly on foot for six or seven days and nights together; and probably, when it comes to their turn to have a night to rest in, these common disturbers make their appearance. It is really lamentable, that we cannot adopt a means of destroying them.

1781. Last night, a man was discovered advancing May. in slow steps towards the garrison, on the road 20th. leading from *Bay-side* to *Landport*; but when he came pretty near the advanced guard, he crawled upon his hands and knees: a *Hanoverian* serjeant, on duty there, challenged him before he came as far as the work, upon which he made a retreat. Lieutenant *Whetham*, of the 58th regt. immediately made a sally with great activity, but when on the point of seizing him, he unfortunately fell into a shell-hole, which gave the other time to push through *Bay-side*. A gold-laced hat was picked up on the road, which makes us imagine that he was an officer in the enemy's service, who had come to view the situation of the place, and how far a detachment might advance in the night before they would be discovered. Our guards in the lines fired pretty briskly, and was very near killing the officer that fellied out.

26th. The gun and mortar-boats came over last night, and gave the camp a very brisk salute. Several people were killed and wounded. The *New Mole*, *Parson's Lodge*, *Buena Vista*, and *South Bastion*, fired remarkably warm upon them, but could not make them desist: when their ammunition was all expended, they then took their leave. A shell from the *Mill-Tower Battery* fell into a house at the back of *South-Shed Guard*, by which a child was killed, and a man and two women wounded; the man is in so dangerous a way, that his life is despaired of. I cannot close this account, without informing you, that the mother of the above child was killed on the 28th of April, by the fire

fire of the gun-boats, and that the husband is 1781
almost disconsolate for their loss. May

This day two soldiers were executed at the 29th.
White Convent for plunder. The town-guards,
by order of the Governor, marched past while
they were hanging.

This day, another soldier was executed for 30th.
the same crime: the General is a very humane
man, but cannot overlook so great an infringement
of martial law. It is amazing, that men
should sport away their existence, for the gratification
of their sensual appetites, as the
crimes for which they all suffered were for
plundering the king's stores of provisions and
liquor. I hope that these examples will be sufficient
to deter the unthinking part from committing
the same acts.

The enemy's fire is not so brisk as at the
first; they are pretty moderate during the day,
but at night play more freely. It is asserted,
they do not fire above sixteen or eighteen hundred
rounds *per diem*. Since my last, the following
officers have been wounded.

Lieutenant *Willington*, Royal Artillery,
Lieutenant *Lowe* and *Thornton*, of the 12th.
And Captain *Foulis*, of the 73d regiments.

Lieutenant *Cunningham*, 39th regiment,
died of his wounds the 6th instant.

We are in continual expectation of being
stormed by the enemy, but we begin to be so
inured to dangers, that the sound of it is no
more regarded than an old tale. Wishing you
every joy, peace, and contentment, I subscribe
myself.

Your affectionate Brother,

LETTER XXI.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1781 June 1st. **A**LL the pleasure I have is to write to you, and receive your answers. The enemy keep their usual warm fire on the garrison, and we are hourly waiting their assault. You are far out of the reach of danger. You may sleep contented, nor dread a vigorous fire of thirteen-inch shells, and twenty-six pound shot, which here we are continually supplied and entertained with, I assure you the *Dons*, in this respect, evince a martial taste, and are beyond belief liberal:

Yesterday evening we made a prize of a *Neapolitan* brig. Our batteries fired at her, which obliged her to come in, she having received several shot. She is laden with flour, consigned to the enemy: We brought her into the *New Mole*.

This morning, at two o'clock, the *Spanish* gun and mortar-boats came over, and fired upwards of three hundred rounds, and then retired; two soldiers were wounded, but not dangerously; they damaged several of the huts — We fired a number of shells, which burst in the air over them. It is conjectured they must have suffered considerably. On the land side the enemy fired excessive hard all the night, such repeated volleys that it was impossible distinctly to tell how many guns were discharged each time; they have greatly shattered our works,

works, but they cannot abate our spirits.— 1781.
Courage is Britons' Pnerogative. June

GARRISON ORDERS.

Provisions as usual, except that for one pound of beef, three quarters of a pound of cheese will be issued weekly.

This morning the Royal Standard was hoisted on flag-staff, and at noon we gave the enemy a ROYAL SALUTE with shot, in honour of his Majesty's birth-day. The Spanish working parties were busily employed on the isthmus, strengthening and repairing their works. 4th.

This morning a magazine belonging to the enemy, on the rising ground under the Queen's Chair, took fire, consisting of ready prepared shells: there was a great explosion, and it is computed near five thousand shells were destroyed, besides many lives lost. It is incredible to believe the joy and transport exhibited by the British soldiery, while death mingled with the enemy. 9th.

This morning a boat, under flag of truce, came over from Algaziras, to inquire the cause of our firing at a neutral vessel yesterday. It is currently reported, that the General returned a British answer, “That they must either keep out of the reach of his guns, or bring to, if required.” The enemy made another sea-attack with their gun and mortar-boats, but received a smart repulse. I believe they did not relish our play, as we gave them a plentiful distribution of shells, which burst over their heads. Not any damage done on shore. 11th.

This

1781 This forenoon a flag of truce brought over June the women and children that were taken by 13th. the enemy, in the ships that sailed from hence the 29th of April. They have detained the crews, in order that they may have the less opposition when they make their attack.

GARRISON ORDERS.

15th. Provision from Monday next the 18th of June, till further orders.

Seven pound of Bread, four ditto of which will be soft, and three ditto of Biscuit; one pound and half Beef, one pound Pork, twelve ounces Cheese, six ounces Butter, quarter pint of Oil, four pints of Pease, and three pints of Oatmeal, per week.

25th. This morning the enemy's gun and mortar-boats discharged about two hundred and fifty rounds, without effecting any other damage, than blowing up several huts and tents. The batteries, most convenient to annoy them, played very briskly.

26th. Wind E. Last night sailed a ship with several invalids, under the care of Captain *Colt*, 12th regiment, for *England*. The enemy, it is imagined, did not perceive her going out.

The *Neopolitan*, mentioned the first of June, was condemned here as a lawful prize, and agents are accordingly appointed until his Majesty's pleasure is known.

GARRISON ORDERS.

30th. The same quantity and species of provision, to be issued next month as last.

The

The enemy keep at work—they seem to be 1781 extending a branch towards the West shore.— June They continue the Siege by land with as much fury as ever. Admiral *Barcello* occupies his old station, and views with pleasure the excursions of his gun-boats. We are very busily employed every night repairing the damages done by their shot and shells. We have not had an officer wounded this month, but several non-commissioned officers and men killed and wounded.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours, &c.

L E T T E R XXII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE enemy continue vigorously to bombard the garrison.—They are making some additional fortifications on the isthmus, either to shelter themselves, or to annoy us in a greater degree. Their military force does not appear to have received any reinforcement—We observe every night several detachments marching down to the lines, which we conjecture are to relieve the different guards and artillery parties.

Yesterday afternoon, about fifteen or sixteen sail of small craft arrived from the Westward at *Orange Grove*.

We

1781 July 1 We kept up a very hot fire last night upon the enemy's mill battery, chiefly small shells. Several carts, and a large body of men, having been observed passing the West angle of St. Phillippe, just at the close of the evening, which we apprehended were for the execution of some work on the isthmus.

9th. The enemy's gun and water boats came over, and discharged very briskly several rounds of shot and shells. They did not stay near their usual time, which makes us imagine they have suffered from our bursting the shells over their heads.

13th. Wind W. Arrived a xebec at *Algaziras*. The small craft that anchored at *Orange Grove* the 3d instant have been landing either stores or provisions ever since: this morning they removed from *Algaziras*.

Last night we had several men killed and wounded by the enemy's land-fire.

15th. This morning a xebec and several gallies stood to the East, two small sail having been observed there, waiting the change of the wind. It is not improbable but they are vessels with supplies, bound from *Tetuan* to the garrison.

17th. Wind E. The xebec and cruizers have returned, without success, to *Cabritta*, where they have anchored to keep a look out to the East.

Last night a vessel sailed from here, bound to *England*, with dispatches, mentioning all is well. The enemy's land-fire is very slack, only now and then a few shot in the day—at night their discharge is mostly shells.

This

This morning two gallies brought into *Al gaziras* a large settee.—*Aicki Hamet*, a Moorish butcher, says she is laden with cattle from *Faro*. This will be a great loss to the garrison, as we have not received any supply of fresh meat for some time, and there being very few cattle at present in the place. The fresh provision which is sold now, is pork, and that is very indifferent and scarce, being fed on the filth of the place, eight rials per pound, about three shillings and three pence sterling.

Very little fire from the enemy by land these six days—they seem to be repairing our works, and we are as attentively employed upon our own.—Towards the Bay all is quiet,

The enemy have again roused.—Yesterday and to-day they fired incessantly. Our batteries made but a trifling return; as it is almost madness to fire at their works, they being so thickly covered with sand, that our shot finds very little penetration.

The enemy continue firing, and seem determined, if possible, to batter down all their works—their gun and mortar boats again visited us, without effecting any damage. We are really in a dismal situation—between the land and sea fire, we scarce dare close our eyes. On your part you must not expect correct letters; the hurry of the times, the noise of mortars, howitzers, cannon, and the bursting of shells, render the mind so confused that it would be a task: let it suffice that I am alive; that shot and shells are my near companions; that smoke, and wounded brother-soldiers are constantly in view; that we have heavy duty, hard

1781

July

20th.

23d.

28th.

30th.

1781 hard watchings, and little rest ; that our
 July forts are groans ; that our nightly repose is
 30th. turned to harrassing alarms ; that our pastimes
 are destruction ; that every hour, we or the
 enemy are inventing some horrid stratagem ;
 and that the next we behold each other plunged
 thereby into the most excruciating anguish.

Such, dear Brother, are *Gibraltar* exhibitions ;
 and perhaps while you are reading this, and feel
 a sensible pang at your heart for my situation, I
 may be performing a part in the tragical scenes
 on a stage where criticism blushes to appear.

You will think I indulge a brood of melan-
 choly reflections, but believe me, I am as clear-
 ful as the god of mirth ! Amidst camps, mar-
 tial sounds, and all the din of war, I find com-
 placency in a resignation to the will of God.
 If Death attends, I hope to receive my fate
 with a christian fortitude, and meet honour
 with expanded arms. With the fullest sense
 of brotherly affection, I subscribe myself,

Sincerely yours,

LETTER XXIII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

Aug. 1. **N**OTHING material has taken place on the Isthmus ;—the enemy are very attentive to the Siege, and keep up a well directed and regular fire. We lost several men yesterday afternoon, by the fire from the *Black Battery*.
 Gentle

Gentle breezes at W. Last night the gun 1781 and mortar boats arranged in two separate divisions, briskly poured into the garrison about two hundred rounds of shot and shells. Our batteries, together with the *Repulse* and *Van Guard* (which are anchored off the *New Mole Head*) gave them a generous return. The cannonade was so spirited, that the bay appeared a blaze during the whole time.

Wind W. This morning a boat standing for the Rock, was taken by the enemy's cruisers, and conducted over the way. We could not give her any assistance, she being near two leagues distance. 3d.

The enemy keep busy at work during the intervals our fire ceases, and have greatly strengthened their advanced approaches. From their proceedings we are almost positive they have other works in contemplation. On our side we have begun forming some additional * embrasures on the hills. 5th.

This forenoon a sail appeared in the Offing, with little wind at W. The Spanish watch-towers hung out the signal of an enemy's appearance.—Eighteen sail of gun-boats rowed out from *Algazires*, and when she had come within two leagues of the garrison, it fell a dead calm, and the enemy raked her fore and aft, showering grape both upon her starboard and larboard quarter. She plied her guns briskly, and I believe would have been inevitably taken, had not Captain *Curtis*, naval commander, ordered the two gun boats, viz. the *Van Guard* and *Repulse*, the former of six, and the latter of five guns, to be towed by the

* Holes in a battery through which the cannon are pointed.

1781. the men of war's boats, towards the enemy, Aug. which they performed in a gallant and undaunted manner, notwithstanding the Spanish gun boats directed their fire among them— When they had got within reach, the *Repulse* discharged her guns, and as soon as the *Van Guard* came up, she did the same, which prevented the enemy from boarding the vessel—a xebec, cutter, and several double gallies cooperated, and poured in a heavy fire, but could not cut her off from the garrison. Her sails, we could plainly perceive, were so greatly torn with grape, that when the breeze sprang up, she could make but little way, but our boats having got a rope from her, they towed her under the walls. She proves to be the *Helena* sloop, in sixteen days from *Portsmouth*. Her main mast was shot through with a twenty-six pound ball; the boatswain was killed, and one of the crew wounded: such a warm sea engagement was never known in sight of the garrison, and we concluded that every soul on board must have been killed or wounded.—But *Britons* ate ever brave, nor could the numerous swarm of cruisers the least dishearten the Captain, nor dispirit the noble crew, who were determined, rather than yield to Spanish power, to perish every man. When she had come near enough for the garrison to cheer (who in crowds had taken possession of the walls and heights as spectators) an incessant shouting ensued, and huzzas, that echoed from the Rock and skies.

Such instances as these must convince the enemy that the spirit of *Britons* is unparalleled, and that no superiority of power will make them

them yield. It must greatly cool their ^{1781.} Aug. rage, and dispossess them of all hope of taking *Gibraltar*.

Thus *Albion's* sons defy the hostile foe—
From shore to shore they steer with conqu'ring arms !
With *Britain's* royal ensigns spread abroad,
On whom the wond'ring nations gaze with pleasure;
While *George's* enemies are struck with dread—
Ye *hectoring Dons*, the *British* standard view,
That bids defiance to your fleets and armes;
Nor let ambition lead you on to woe,
But stop ! before we work your overthrow.

Wind E. Last night a *fettee* from *Mimbreo*, ^{10th.} bound to the garrison with supplies, was taken off *Europa*, by the *Spanish* cruizers. The crew had just time, before she was boarded, to make their escape. The enemy keep a tolerable brisk fire, and we continue to annoy them from our batteries on the hill.

Last night, between eleven and twelve ^{16th.} o'clock, the enemy's gun and mortar-boats made an attack upon the *fourthward*; the garrison and shipping returned the fire, but unfortunately, during the action, we had the loss of one man killed, and three wounded.

Wind W. During the course of the night, a ^{17th.} *schooner* got safe in from *Faro*, with sundry supplies. They bring an account that the enemy are busy at *Cadiz*, in equipping an armament to act against this place, and are hourly in expectation of being reinforced with a *French* squadron.

Last night, several guns were distinctly heard ^{19th.} in the *Gut*, from nine to eleven o'clock; which proved

1781 proved to be the enemy in chace of the *Kite*
Aug. cutter, from *Gravesend*, arrived here safe this
morning. She has brought dispatches for our
Governor.

23d. The enemy are diligently employed in
lengthening their approaches on the isthmus.
Several strong parties frequently appear, which
we as regularly fire upon—From their *Black
Battery*, *Forts St. Phillippe*, *Barbary*, and lines,
they keep a hot and severe cannonade and
bombardment—two soldiers killed this day.

28th. Last night, there being a smooth sea, the
Spanish gun and mortar-boats came over from
Algaziras, and fired briskly for the space of
two hours and upwards. The garrison, ship-
ing, and two advanced gun-boats or prams,
made a very good return, but all ineffectual to
prevent their annoyance. A shell unfortu-
nately fell into the artillery-ward at Naval-
Hospital, and killed a matrof, who was in-
capable of getting out of bed, owing to having
his leg and thigh broke by the enemy's fire
some time past, of which he daily languished :
the shell dropped by the side of his cradle,
spitting forth its sulphureous venom, and in
that tormenting situation, he was compelled to
remain and wait the mercy of the explosion.
You may judge what must be his feeling in
that predicament, without friends, help, or
strength to make his escape from so irresistible
a foe. The inexpressible agonies he must have
experienced during the short interval of life,
certainly were beyond the power of utterance,
or the delineations of a pen to give a just de-
scription : after having uttered a few ejacula-
tions to heaven, the unmerciful demon burst
in

in pieces, and extinguished those sparks of life 1781
that were unexpired in the wounded man. Aug.

Nothing extraordinary this month from the 30th.
land or sea; every thing is perfectly quiet in
respect to storming us. The *Spanijs* batteries
continue their usual fire, both from their lines
and isthmus. We expect, every westerly wind,
to behold the grand armament appear in the
Offing from *Cadiz*, to give the decisive blow.—
General *Elliott* has made every possible arrange-
ment of ordnance, for a determined opposi-
tion; and, I hope, whenever the trial comes,
that our arms will be crowned with victorious
success.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Sincerely yours.

L E T T E R XXIV.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

DEATH and Slaughter continue to be our Sept.
visitants—on every hand impending ruin
hourly awaits. The *Spaniards* keep up their usual
fire upon us, seemingly studiously meditating
our overthrow; not only the garrison of *Gib-
raltar*, but also the island of *Minorca*, has ex-
cited their attention. From this it is evident
they are aiming at clearing the *Mediterranean*
of his Britannic Majesty's land and sea-forces,
but

1781 but it is hoped that their endeavours to effect
Sept. these purposes, will fall short of the desired
success.

5th. This forenoon, a *Spanish* cartel brought over
the Patron of the boat taken the third of Au-
gust last, from whom we learn, that the *French*
have landed an army on the island of *Minorca*,
with an intent to work the reduction of that
place; and it is currently reported in *Spain*,
that the *Duc de Crillon* had commenced a bom-
bardment there. Several wounded invalids
were embarked on ship-board by order of the
Governor, on their passage for *England*, the
third instant.

The enemy are very busy on the isthmus,
employed at work, forwarding their labours—
the tracts of several carts have been discovered
on the sand, between the lines and *Mill-Bat-
tery*, so that we imagine they were carrying
ordnance or materials for their batteries.

7th. Arrived from the eastward a xebec and two
gallies, they have anchored on the opposite
side. The enemy's fire continues. Three men
were wounded this afternoon by the explosion
of a shell.

12th. This morning the *Spanish* squadron was
dressed out with variety of colours, and at
noon the forts, lines, and *Black Battery* gave
us a salute of twenty-seven guns with shot:
The troops in camp were arranged in line, and
fired a *feu de joie*, which they repeated three
times, together with the shipping at *Algaziras*.
We cannot imagine the cause of this rejoicing,
as it is not one of their Saint's days.

16th. Wind E. The invalids that were embark-
ed under the care of Lieutenant *Lowé* of
the

the 12th regiment, sailed last night to the 1781
Westward. Sept.

The enemy continue a brisk cannonade—
We return the fire moderately.

Last night the *Spanish* gun and mortar-boats 18th.
stole over, and fired upwards of three hundred
rounds of shot and shells—the garrison and
shipping kept up an incessant discharge of
ordnance, but unluckily, during the action we
had four men wounded.

Some time in the course of the night, a car-
cass, fired from *Willis's*, upon the works on
the isthmus, set them on fire, which burnt
for near an hour—We took this opportunity
of making a furious cannonade, which the
enemy particularly acknowledged.

We discovered this morning a new work,
West side of *St. Carlos*, extended towards
the shore. It is not sufficiently executed to
form a judgment of the construction.

A xebec and several small craft sailed this
morning from *Algaziras* to the Eastward, where
they are observed cruizing backwards and for-
wards, in expectation of meeting some prey.

Between nine and ten o'clock last night, a 19th.
shell fired from *St. Carlos's* battery, on the isth-
mus, entered a house near *South Line-wall* guard
—Majors *Mercier* and *Vignoles* of the 39th regi-
ment, and Captain *Burke* of the 58th regi-
ment (Town-Major of the garrison) were sit-
ting round a table in a room when the shell
descended with fatal destruction, which falling
on the thighs of the latter, greatly mutilated
them, and wounded the two other Majors :—
the rubbish which fell from the ceiling by the
forcible entry, extinguished the candle, and

1781 the only light remaining was the igneous fure of the shell. Majors *Mercier* and *Vignoles* in their wounded condition, instantly arose to escape, when taking hold of Captain *Burke*, they found him in a state apparently deprived of action or expression. Self preservation became necessary, (one minute longer delay probably would have terminated their existence) they instantly retreated in pain, from the scene of misery, which they had scarce effected, when the shell burst with furious explosion, and tossed the Town-Major from the place where he had fallen, to another part of the room: He was soon after removed in a mangled and torn condition, which feelingly effected the soldiers, who carried him from that place to the Naval Hospital, where he soon afterwards expired, in the most excruciating agony.

In visiting the house in the morning, the walls were found shattered, besprinkled with his blood, and part of his flesh sticking to the ruins of the roof.

You will pardon me in attempting to draw the outlines of so worthy and deserving an officer.

He was bold, vigilant, enterprizing, and well disciplined. Active and severe in his station, and attentive to an impartial discharge of the duty he owed his country, but to do justice to his eminent abilities, my talents are too inadequate, I must therefore leave it to some able writer, who knew his private, as well as public virtues. His loss will be long regretted by society;—by his country in general, and this garrison in particular.

While

While the attendants strove to bind his wounds,
He patient gaz'd around, with placid eyes,
'Till wearied Nature sinking with her load,
Resisted—struggled—worn out with th' encounter,
Resign'd her charge unto the tyrant Death;
His soul unfetter'd, unincumber'd fled,
To the blest mansions of eternal peace.

1781
Sept.
19th.

The enemy kept up a brisk fire the whole of last night, which was as spiritedly returned by our batteries, and when the above intelligence had reached the several posts, revenge operated so powerfully, that our cannonade continued till the morning, very hot. We had several men wounded, during the night.

Sailed the *Helena* floop, and *Kite* cutter, to the Westward.

This day, between eleven and one o'clock, a soldier was executed for theft. He died seemingly insensible of his situation.

GARRISON ORDERS.

20th.

Captain James Foulis of the 73d regiment, is appointed Town-Major, vice Major Burke deceased.

This day we had several men killed from the land-fire—the enemy continue briskly at work on the West side of *St. Carlos*.

12

GARRISON

GARRISON ORDERS.

1781

Sept. 21st. *The ration of provisions from Monday the 24th inst. seven pounds of Bread, and half ditto Beef, one ditto Pork, six ounces Butter, twelve ditto Cheese, (in lieu of one pound Beef) three pints of Oatmeal, three ditto Pease, one and quarter ditto of Wheat, in lieu of one pint Pease.*

24th. Last night the enemy's gun and mortar-boats came over, and fired near three hundred rounds, but mostly shells—they did not do any considerable damage to the southward. Our prams discovered them pretty early, and made a very free return:—the firing from the garrison at them was chiefly from the *New Mole and South Bastion*—We took the advantage to fire during their stay, into their camp, from the extremity of the *Devil's Tongue*. The enemy from the land-side keep up the bombardment and cannonade, and are attentively employed at work on the isthmus, improving and advancing their lines of approach.

25th. Wind W. Arrived the *Flying Fish* cutter, from *England*. A xebec chased her under the garrison guns, and exchanged several shot with her, but could not prevent her from entering the port. During the course of the night, the merlons (that have been heightened) off *Fort-Barbara*, took fire, which occasioned the garrison to pour in a great quantity of shot and shells.

A few small vessels arrived at the *Orange-Grove*—It is likely they have brought provision for the *Spanish* camp, as their army must cause a great consumption in the province of *Andalusia*,

Iusia, which at best is but poor, and badly supplied with cattle. 1781 Sept.

The enemy have not ceased firing these five days, but have kept up a regular and determined cannonade: They have not killed and wounded many, though a person would think it impossible for a bird to escape, amidst such showers of shot. On the sea-side all is quiet, nor has any shipping of force appeared, either from East or West to molest us. The enemy are very tedious in commencing the storm, and really our expectation begins to tire. They have bombarded us now near six months, and General *Alvarez* is as far from taking possession of the garrison as he was at first, although they have discharged from their batteries, according to the nearest calculation, between thirty and forty thousand rounds of shot and shells. He may view the rock with his perspective, from the camp of *St. Roque*, but if he wishes to examine the workmanship of the walls, and the strength of the fortification, he must come much nearer, or return without the gratification of his curiosity.

I remain,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately Yours.

LETTER

LETTER XXV.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1781 Oct. 5. **E**VERY thing remains much in the same situation as when I finished my last letter. Admiral *Barcello* and his squadron occupy the port of *Algaziras*, from whence now and then a xebec or galley will occasionally push out, merely to command respect. We have not observed a signal on the *Spanish* towers at *Ca-britta* a long time, but we expect, whenever the naval power fails from *Cadiz* harbour, it will be immediately noised along the coast. The soldiery appear impatient for the grand attack, and attentively watch the variation of the wind, as a westerly breeze only will waft their armament to the place of action.

7th. Very little wind at W. Last night the gun and mortar-boats came over, and fired excessive brisk upon the southward: the garrison and shipping returned the same, but the enemy did not do any damage on shore. We fired several shells into their camp from *Old Mole-Head*. The enemy keep working on the isthmus, and maintain the land cannonade with fury.

10th. This day the enemy fired upon us with great warmth, which was freely returned by the batteries upon the hill. Unfortunately during the time, a shell, which burst, killed Ensign *Stevens* of the 39th regiment—Several men were wounded by the splinters of shells.

The

The *Flying Fish* cutter, which arrived here 17th the 25th of September, failed, unperceived by Oct. the enemy.

Wind E. This day the enemy's line of battle ships sailed to the westward. From this circumstance, we conclude that the fleet equipping at *Cadiz* is destined to act against some other place, or there could not be any necessity to remove those ships from their station. On the land-side the enemy keep up the fire, and this day it is reported an additional mortar was mounted in *St. Carlos*. We fired very hot on their advanced works.

The enemy, yesterday afternoon, had some 17th. artillery-practice in their camp, but we could not particularly make out the meaning, as we only observed some smoke, and heard the report of the ordnance. On the isthmus several working parties continue their labours, which the batteries unremittingly fire upon.

This day a hot cannonade was kept up on 20th. both sides for many hours—Lieutenant *Tinlin*, Assistant-Engineer, and four soldiers, were wounded thereby. Our fire apparently put the enemy frequently in confusion, as several men were seen carrying on bearers along the shore toward their camp.

This day there was a general change of 21st. quarters with the soldiery—those regiments quartered in town marched and took possession of the southward encampments, and the others marched for the town-district. Arrived a xebec from the West at *Algaziras*. The enemy as usual keep up the fire.

This morning we discovered the enemy had 22^d finished a battery of six embrasures from *Mill-Tower*,

1781 Tower, towards the West strand ; which they began on the 18th September. It faces the *Old Mole* and *Water-Port*, and is constructed on purpose for the annoyance of those posts. We fired very warm upon it from *Montague's* bastion, and the upper batteries.

23d. Last night two soldiers deserted from us to the enemy ; they cannot carry any intelligence that will prove prejudicial to the welfare of the garrison.

About two this afternoon, a great firing was heard in the Gut—the *Spanish* towers had a red flag hoisted, and several gallies pushed from *Algaziras* to the westward.—We fear some unfortunate vessel, destined for this place, has fallen into the enemy's clutches.

24th. This day we had the pleasure to set the enemy's new work on fire, by howitzer-shells from *Montague's* bastion, which occasioned the enemy to redouble their cannonade from their forts and lines. With much difficulty, danger, and loss, they got the fire extinguished : on our side we had some few wounded.

25th. Last night the enemy covered the embrasures of their new battery with sand and fascines ; from this it is evident that the platforms for the cannon are not laid ; it will therefore be some days before they can have them mounted for action. We give them a plentiful discharge of small shells, which must prove very disadvantageous to them in their proceedings.

A report is now received from the batteries, that a *Spanish* officer (as they could plainly perceive his uniform) was knocked off the *Mill*-*Battery* as he was standing upon the glacis, taking an observation of our works. There is not

not any doubt but he was an engineer, which 1781 will be a loss to the enemy, as they have some Oct. of the most celebrated for fortification now in their service.

A heavy fire all night from the *Black Battery*, 26th. forts, and lines. This day, Lieutenant *Vicars*, of the 56th regiment, received a wound. The *Spanish* gallies that sailed to the west the 23d. instant, have returned to their old station.

Wind W. About eleven this forenoon a sail 30th. appeared standing for the Bay. Two *Spanish* cruizers under *Ape's Hill* fired a signal gun, upon which eleven gun-boats sailed out from *Algaziras*. When they came up with her, she opened her ports, and discharged several rounds of grape, and continued firing till she came pretty near *Europa*, where the enemy boarded her, and carried her off in triumph. She was an *English* cutter, and fought well, nor according to opinion, would she have been captured had not the wind dropped. The enemy kept up a spirited fire from the land side.

Last night arrived, with a fresh breeze at 31st. West, the *Unicorn* cutter, and four other vessels, from *Faro*, laden with fruit and poultry, a very seasonable and excellent supply, as the garrison are very much necessitated for vegetables, fruit, and fresh diet. The *New Mole* wharf, this morning, was quite crowded, every one being anxious to buy something, although the articles sold at an exorbitant rate: onions sold for six rials per pound (two shillings and five pence farthing) oranges and lemons one rial eight quarts each (seven pence halfpenny sterling) the poultry at the usual prices, viz. three dollars and an half for a hen. Common green

1781 green tea, brought by the *Unicorn*, sold for Oct. fourteen dollars per pound (two pounds five 31st. shillings and sixpence) and a loaf of sugar five dollars, nearly seventeen shillings per pound. This is rare traffic! We hope these times will not last long, and a communication will be opened, so that supplies may be brought in and sold at a moderate price; or, should they continue, the garrison will, of course, be exhausted of all cash in a short time.

The enemy keep up a constant fire—Their works on the isthmus are going forward, and their naval and military force remains just the same.

This month is finished without any great exploits, or coming to close quarters.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours.

LETTER XXVI.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

Nov. 3 THREE days more elapsed without any particular circumstance intervening, nor has the enemy appeared to be so attentive to their labours. The siege is continued by our opponents, who adopt every measure to distress us, notwithstanding which, the *British* troops apparently disregard the threatening foe, who

who thunder forth their vengeance every 1781
hour.

Nov.

The soldiery are very much afflicted with the scurvy, owing to the salt diet, and some of them so bad that they have lost the entire use of their limbs, and represent the picture of decrepid old age. Our Governor has humanely ordered the director of the hospital, to serve out daily to the surgeons of the several corps, one pound of onions for every ten men, and two lemons or oranges for every man in the scurvy. This, it is hoped, will contribute greatly to their cure.

The gun and mortar boats came over, and 4th. discharged all their ammunition upon the garrison, while the land batteries took part in the cannonade. An incessant fire on every side continued for upwards of two hours, during which time Ensign *Edgar* of the 56th, and Lieutenant *John Frazer* of the 73d regiments, were wounded—the latter lost a leg by a shot from the *Black Battery*; several soldiers also were wounded.

Nine settees came from the West, and anchored at the *Orange Grove*—We suppose them to be market boats.

Yesterday we fired from the garrison at a 9th. *Danish* dogger, that came nearly under the guns, but could not make her stand in. On the land side the enemy fired excessively warm, which was answered from *Willis's* and the upper batteries. This morning we discovered that the enemy had erected another battery on the isthmus, seemingly fronting our lines—They are determined to have a sufficient number of pieces of ordnance mounted for battering our walls.

Wind

1781 Wind W. Arrived at *New Mole* the *Phœnix* Nov. 9th, an ordnance cutter, with Brigadier-General 13th. *Ross*, passenger. She had a brush with a cruiser at the entrance of the Bay, but not of any consequence—Her intelligence is kept very secret.

This forenoon a cutter from the westward was chased by a frigate and three gallies, but before she could reach the garrison she was becalmed and boarded: She plied her guns in a spirited manner, but the superiority of power obliged her to yield. The enemy brought her into *Algaziras*, under her enigma reversed.

A very heavy fire from the land batteries, directed towards the hill and town, during which we had the loss of two men killed, and three wounded.

14th. A brisk fire from the lines and forts.—The enemy worked very hard last night on the isthmus, and completed the battery they began on the 9th inst. We fired several thirteen inch shells upon them this morning.

16th. This day a shell, fired from *St. Carlos*, fell near *George Picardo's* vineyard, where it burst, but did not do any damage. A splinter of another, which exploded in the air, struck the south end of the naval hospital, which is near four thousand yards; a most incredible distance for pieces of ordnance to reach. The enemy fired very brisk upon our works from all the ordnance they have mounted; they did much damage to *Willis's Battery*, and wounded Lieutenant *Evans*, an assistant engineer, though not dangerously.

The

The enemy continue their long-range shells 1781 upon the southward, which is of great annoyance. Last night a shell fell under the platform 18th. of a tent where two corporals were asleep, when the intolerable fume and stench of the burning composition awakened them, nor could they imagine from whence the smoke proceeded. The shell entered under the boards, when they opened the tent door to let in the air, to prevent being suffocated, at that instant it exploded and blew them some yards, without receiving any injury; they shortly recovered from their surprize, and turned their eyes to the place where the tent had stood, but the tent and tent-poles, &c. could not be seen, they being torn to pieces, and scattered in many places. In this naked situation they began a search for their wearing apparel, but only found the cuff of a coat in one place, part of a sleeve in another, and their shoes parched to a cinder. Thus forlorn they began to console each other, when Corporal *R-b-d-s-n* exclaimed, *D—n it, I don't care for the loss of my clothes, but all my money is gone!*

You probably will imagine, that a man who had so fortunately escaped such imminent danger, would have been thankful to the all-ruling Power for his preservation, and not instantaneously lament his pecuniary loss; but the besieged have been so long inured to the casualties of battle, that its effect is little regarded. Should death be constantly held in view, it might somewhat tend to dispossess the soldier of that spirit of heroism, so necessary for the business of fighting.

Came

1781 Nov. 21. Came in two deserters from the enemy's *Walloon Guards*, one of them is a corporal, and seems to be an intelligent man. He says there are twenty-one thousand men in the camp, waiting the arrival of the naval power, to storm this place: he has given the General a clear and exact description of the works on the isthmus, and the construction of *St. Carlos*, together with an account of the strength of their guards and working parties, that are employed daily.

The enemy continue to throw their long rangers.* Last night a shell fell at the door of the barrack on the *Mole Parade*, where it exploded, forced the door open, and broke all the windows. The hand of Providence was visible in the discharge of this shell, for, had it been a yard more to the left, it must have fallen into the barracks, where two companies of soldiers are quartered.

23d. The long rangers still visit the South. One fell in Colonel *Cochrane's* quarters on *Scud-hill*, but did not do any damage: another near the magazine on the *Mole Parade*, and several into the *Mole Yard*, and within the boom. We keep a constant fire upon their works, but they are so well intrenched, that we cannot silence them.

26th. The enemy keep rattling away with guns and mortars, and seemingly take a pleasure in reaching the southward. Several shells have fallen this forenoon about *South Shed*, and *Princess of Wales's* lines: they cannot reach further

* A phrase made use of by the soldiery, for the incredible length the enemy throw their shells.

ther only when there is a strong northerly 1781 wind, which forces the shell with a greater velocity. We fired several times at their working parties on the isthmus.

This evening, the garrison were highly delighted with the general orders. It is whispered, that the information given by the corporal that came in the 21st instant, has induced the Governor to make a trial of *British* valour.

EVENING GARRISON ORDERS.

All the grenadiers and light-infantry, and all the men of the 12th, and Hardenberg's regiments, officers and non-commissioned officers, now on duty, to be immediately called in and join their regiments, to form a detachment, consisting of the 12th and Hardenberg's regiments, compleat—The grenadiers and light companies of all the other regiments (who are to be compleated to their full establishment from the battalion companies) one captain, three lieutenants, ten non-commissioned officers, and one hundred artillery, three engineers, seven officers overseers, twelve non-commissioned overseers, and one hundred and sixty workmen from the line, excepting from the 12th and Hardenberg's regiments, and forty workmen from the artificer company—Each man to carry thirty-nine rounds or more, a good flint in his piece, and another in his pocket—No drums, except two with the 12th, and two with Hardenberg's—No swords—The whole to assemble on the Red Sands at twelve o'clock this night—The wine houses to be shut up at six o'clock, and all the soldiers to repair to their quarters—Brigadier Ross to command the detachment—No volunteers will be allowed—Lieutenant-Colonels Dackenhausen, Hugo, Trigge, and Major

1781 Major Maxwell, to meet the Governor at the Field Nov. Officers room, at the South, as soon as possible. 26th. The troops intended for the Sortee to be formed as follows :

Right. Lieutenant-Colonel Hugo, Grenadiers of Redens and La Mot's, Workmen, Artillery, Hardenberg's Regiment, Light Company 56th Regiment.

Centre. Lieutenant-Colonel Dackenhausen, Grenadiers and Light Company 39th and 73d Regiments, Workmen, Artillery, Grenadiers of the 56th and 58th Regiments, Major Maxwell.

Left. Lieutenant-Colonel Trigge, Grenadiers and Light Infantry 72d Regiment, Seamen, Artillery, 12th Regiment, Light Company 58th Regiment.

27th. This morning at two o'clock, the detachment of officers, non-commissioned officers and men, under the command of Brigadier-General Ross, marched from the Red Sands, where they had assembled, through Bay-side and Lower Forbes's, to storm the enemy's advanced works—The word *steady* was the countersign. The Spanish centinels, posted in the Gardens, soon discovered the English troops advancing, upon which they fired their musquets to spread the alarm, and then retreated to St. Carlos. The British army, in a spirited and intrepid manner, rushed on, and, after some opposition, gained possession of the Spanish works, which struck such a panic to the enemy, that the greatest part stationed to defend the place fled with consternation to the lines,

lines, to make a position of defence, not apprehending so unexpected a visit, while the Nov. 1781 others fell from the fire of our musquetry. 27th. The business now commenced, the workmen and seamen began with their tomahawks,* devils §, and warlike combustables, to set the batteries on fire, while the artillery spiked up ten mortars, and eighteen pieces of cannon, during which one of the former happened to go off, and sent a shell to the southward; in a few minutes the isthmus appeared an entire blaze, from the fire of their consuming batteries, and the reflection of the light was so great, that a person could have read upon our batteries. Thus successful, the whole body gave three huzzas, which consequently must sensibly aggravate and vex the foe. We kept up a hot cannonade from the garrison, upon their two forts and *Barrier-gate*, to cover our men, and prevent their sallying out. A regiment of horse appeared near *Fort-Barbary*, but after they had made several feints to come on, they thought prudent to retire. The enemy fired upon the detachment with round and grape, but their cannon, for want of being sufficiently depressed, had not the desired effect, as most of the shot flew over our people's heads. Our gallant and veteran Governor, accompanied by Captain *Curtis*, went out to be an eye-witness of the transaction; and when the business was fully accomplished, he smilingly said to Captain *Curtis*, "How beautiful the

K Rock

* Small hatchets, having a sharp point on the back.

§ An inflammable composition bound in small bundles, which, after the bands of the fascines are cut, are stuck in between the openings.

1781 *Rock appears by the light of the glorious fire.*" An Nov. officer and several Spanish soldiers were put to 27th. the sword: an artillery officer was made prisoner attempting to escape with the keys of the powder magazines, which were immediately opened, to give the fire of the batteries a communication to the ammunition; after which the keys were delivered to our Governor on the isthmus, by Captain *Whetham*, of the Royal Artillery.

The detachment having done all that men could do, retreated to the garrison with the satisfaction of destroying, in fifteen minutes, a work estimated at three million of dollars, bringing with them prisoners, one sub-lieutenant of Walloon Guards, (Baron *Helmsat*) one sub-lieutenant of Artillery, and ten Men: with the small loss on our side of four men killed, one officer, (Lieutenant *Tweedie* of the 12th Foot, who received a grape-shot in his thigh) two serjeants and twenty-two men wounded, and one man missing. The enemy had only recovered their surprize, and beat to arms, when the detachment was repassing off *Landport-gate*, so that you will say we were expeditious in destruction. Several of the Spanish powder magazines blew up after the retreat of the British troops.

The General expressed the greatest approbation of the officers and men, which you will perceive by the following

GARRISON ORDERS.

The bravery and conduct of the whole detachment, officers, seamen, and soldiers, on this glorious occasion, surpasses the Governor's utmost acknowledgments.

STATE

STRENGTH OF THE DETACHMENT
THAT MADE THE SORTEE.

| LEFT. | CENTRE. | RIGHT. | Rank and File. | Drummers. | Non-committ. Officers. | Officers. |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Lieut. Col. <i>Trigge.</i> | Lt. Col. <i>Dackenhausen.</i> Major <i>Maxwell.</i> | Lt. Colonel <i>Hugo.</i> | <i>Reden's Grenadiers.</i> - - | 5 | 7 | 71 |
| | | | <i>La Mott's ditto.</i> - - | 3 | 7 | 71 |
| | | | <i>Workmen & Artillery.</i> - - | 5 | 4 | 50 |
| | | | <i>Hardenberg's Regt.</i> - - | 16 | 34 | 296 |
| | | | <i>56th Light Infantry.</i> - - | 3 | 3 | 57 |
| | | | <i>39th Grenadiers.</i> - - | 3 | 3 | 57 |
| | | | <i>39th Light Infantry.</i> - - | 3 | 3 | 57 |
| | | | <i>Workmen & Artillery.</i> - - | 6 | 8 | 150 |
| | | | <i>73d Grenadiers.</i> - - | 4 | 5 | 101 |
| | | | <i>73d Light Infantry.</i> - - | 4 | 5 | 101 |
| | | | <i>56th Grenadiers.</i> - - | 3 | 3 | 57 |
| | | | <i>58th ditto.</i> - - - | 3 | 3 | 57 |
| | | | <i>72d Grenadiers.</i> - - | 4 | 5 | 101 |
| | | | <i>72d Light Infantry.</i> - - | 4 | 5 | 101 |
| | | | <i>Seamen.</i> - - - | 3 | 10 | 100 |
| | | | <i>12th Regiment.</i> - - | 26 | 28 | 430 |
| | | | <i>58th Light Infantry.</i> - - | 3 | 3 | 57 |
| | | | Total | 68 | 136 | 41914 |

STATE of the GARRISON at the time of the SORTEE.

| Rank and File. | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|-----|-------|------|--------|-----|
| Drummers and Fifers | | | | | | 41914 | |
| Serjeants. | | | | | | 6557 | |
| Mates. | | | | | | 179531 | |
| Surgeons. | | | | | | | |
| Quar. Maitters. | | | | | | | |
| Adjutants. | | | | | | | |
| Chaplains. | | | | | | | |
| Ensigns. | | | | | | | |
| Lieutenants. | | | | | | | |
| Captains. | | | | | | | |
| Majors. | | | | | | | |
| lt. Colonels. | | | | | | | |
| Colonels. | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Detachment composed the SORR.E. | | | | | | | |
| Sick and wounded. | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| Remained. | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Total of the Garrison. | 6 | 8 | 872 | 13246 | 3108 | 8916 | 441 |
| | | | | | | | |

N. B. Brevet Majors are included as Captains; non-commissioned officers of Artillery as Sergeants. Forty-one Drummers, and fifty-one privates, of what remained in the Garrison were boys.

C A S U A L S

in the differeent Corps in before-mentioned Sortee.

| C O R P S. | KILLED. | WOUNDED. | Missing. |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| | Rank and File. | Rank and File. | |
| Rank and File. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Drummers. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sergeants. | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Officers. | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Rank and File. | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Drummers. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sergeants. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Officers. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| R. Artillery. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12th Regt. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 39th. — | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 56th. — | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 58th. — | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 72d. — | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 73d. — | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hardenberg's | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reden's — | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| La Mott's — | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Artificer camp. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Seamen. | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Total | 0 | 4 | 22 |

1781 The enemy's works burnt very furiously all Nov. yesterday afternoon and night; and are still 28th. on fire. They last night fired very warm, with grape shot, on the isthmus, supposing we were again advancing, until a shell discharged from the upper batteries on St. Carlos convinced them that we had not any men there. A large body of men yesterday evening marched from their camp to the lines, to reinforce the different posts, apprehending we should pay them a visit in that quarter.

GARRISON ORDERS.

The Adjutant-General having laid before the Governor the following note from Brigadier-General Ross, he is pleased to direct that the same shall be inserted in the orders of the day.

Brigadier Ross begs of the Adjutant-General, that he would mention to the Governor his most humble request, that his Excellency would be pleased to accept of the Brigadier's warmest acknowledgment of the great honor conferred on him, by commanding the detachment that formed the Sortie. To the Officers, and every one of whom, he would wish to make the most public avowal of their firm good behaviour on the occasion.

30th. The enemy yesterday and to-day have been viewing the ashes of their late works, and with penitential tears, moaning their irretrievable loss, and endless disgrace. We keep up a smart fire at present, and it is asserted, that it will be continued, to prevent the enemy from repairing the damage their batteries have received. General Alvarez, there is not any doubt,

doubt, will study mischief in retaliation, and 1781 exert all his intellectual faculties in the promotion of Nov. plans, projects, stratagems, and inventions, to gain 30th. revenge; but while success smiles upon our arms, and glory sounds from shore to shore, the transporting melody inspires with desperate animation, and invigorates the warrior's zeal to such a degree, that fleets, armies, camps, garrisons, forts, batteries, and intrenchments, with all the hostile pomp and threatenings of the foe, are disregarded, and stamped with contempt.

I am,

Dear Brother,

With the greatest affection,

Tours, &c.

L E T T E R XXIVII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE enemy have not begun repairing their late approaches, but seemingly intend it, as several parties unarmed frequently make their appearance. They return a spirited fire from their lines and forts, but their isthmus bombardment, *alas! is over.* Dec.

Wind W. S. W. Three men of war, convoying twenty-one sail of merchantmen passed through 3c

1781 through from the Westward. About thirty Dec. sail to the Eastward attempting also to pass to the Westward, but were forced to put back.— It is conjectured they are both *French* convoys.

7th. Wind S. W. This day an *English* cutter was captured by the enemy's gun boats, after an hour's spirited fire on both sides. She crowded all the sail she possibly could, but the wind having dropped almost to a calm, the garrison and shipping were incapable of assisting her.

9th. Wind E. This forenoon two frigates (one *French* and one *Spanish*) arrived from the Eastward at *Algaziras*; and this afternoon about a dozen large settees arrived at the *Orange Grove*. The enemy have done nothing particular on the isthmus.

11th. This morning we perceived the *Spaniards* had begun repairing the ruins of *St. Carlos*, and that several parties were busily employed. We accordingly discharged a considerable quantity of grape shot and small shells upon them, which made them desist from their labour.

A small sloop was this forenoon taken off *Tarifa*, by a galley and three gun boats. It is likely that she was bound for this place.

13th. Wind N. E. Last night sailed the *Unicorn*, cutter, for *England*, the breeze being very stiff, supposed she got through the gut.

14th. The *Phanix* cutter, yesterday morning slipped out of *New Mole*, and proceeded on her passage to *England*. The breeze was favourable from the East. The enemy have not detached any cruisers to the Westward, probably they consider these two cutters not worth the pursuit.

The

The Spaniards occasionally labour at repairing their works. but when they observe the Dec. flash of our ordnance, they immediately get 19th. under cover, but we endeavour to annoy them with our small shells, which drop into their works, and then burst: these consequently must be fatal to them, as their traverses were all consumed together with the gabions and fascines of all their advanced works The Spaniards continue their usual fire both by day and night,

Wind W. During the course of the night, 20th. two vessels arrived with supplies of butter, potatoes, and beef, from *Portsmouth*, having had a passage of twenty days. They bring intelligence, that the day before they left *Faro*, they heard the accounts of the victorious fall from the garrison, papers having been received there upon the interesting subject.

Several bundles of fascines were brought from the lines to the isthmus last night, and the sand thrown up in many places. The enemy apparently have forgot their defeat, and that they ever had erected advanced works; or surely the recollection would prevent them from any further attempts to construct others in their place.

Last night, it being a brisk Levanter, Major 21st. General *Rof's* (appointed to that rank by His Majesty's command, and declared in the Garrison orders of yesterday) sailed from hence on his passage to *Portugal*, from whence he will take shipping for *England*, where there is not the least doubt but he will be received with eclat; and every mark of approbation, from

1781 from a grateful nation, for his bravery and singular service, on the 27th of last November.

21st. The Spaniards are very busy on the isthmus, and have repaired a great part of the ruins of their late works:—They seem determined on their re-construction, notwithstanding our heavy and spirited fire from *Willis's* and the upper batteries. The *Black Battery* and *Fort St. Philippe* kept up an incessant cannonade all this morning upon the garrison.

23d. Wind E. Arrived a frigate, sloop, cutter, and several xebecs from the eastward, and anchored between *Orange-Grove* and *Algaziras*. A settee was taken off *Ccuta* point, by a galley, and carried in there.

24th. Wind W. N. W. Passed by a convoy of neutrals, in all about 30 sail.—The enemy hoisted a signal at *Cabritta*, not knowing who they were, upon which a xebec went out and spoke to them.

29th. This morning early, died in the naval hospital, Baron *Helmstat*, taken prisoner at *St Carlos*, on the 27th last month, and who since had a leg amputated, owing to a wound he received by a musquet-ball in that action. The corps was dressed in full uniform, according to the Spanish custom, and the General and principal officers, walked in solemn procession to the *New-Mole*, where a flag of truce waited to convey the body to the *Orange-Grove*: A band of music playing a dirge, and a company of grenadiers, escorted the decorated bier to the water's edge, and upon the corpse being lowered into the boat, the latter fired three volleys in honor of the deceased. The coffin had all that art and ingenuity could invent, to render it elegant,

gant, which must sensibly please the enemy, 1781 when they consider the respect paid by the Dec. Governor to this fallen officer. He was young, 29th. handsome, and on the point of nuptial celebration with a young lady, born in the province of *Andalusia*, and who, during his sickness, had furnished him (by flags of truce) with wine and other refreshing diet, which this garrison could not afford ; but the day before his decease, she came half bay over, (hearing of his dangerous situation) to visit him, and take her last adieu ! but the Adjutant-General, who went to receive the flag of truce, assured her, she could not be permitted to land until the Governor's pleasure was known, and that the next day he would wait upon her with his Excellency's command ; instead of which, she received the lifeless trunk of him on whom her every wish and happiness was founded.

The enemy are diligently repairing the 30th. works on the isthmus,—a shell fired from *Willis's*, this day, fell among a party of their workmen, about 50 or 60 in number, which we have the greatest reason to believe did considerable mischief. The *Spanish* forts and lines continue the cannonade and bombardment.— One soldier killed and two wounded this day, by the explosion of a shell.

A brisk fire on both sides continues, and 31st. the enemy keep constantly at work.—A strong party are employed near the *Centre-stone Guard House*, erecting a battery. The naval force remains quiet, nor have we been troubled with the gun and mortar-boats some time past.

This

1781 This year has finished without giving the
 Dec. decisive stroke, though it has been successful
 on our part, and crowned our arms with glory
 and conquest.

I remain,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately Yours.

LETTER XXVIII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1782 **A**S all my letters are intended for your in-
 Jan. 1. **A**formation, I shall endeavour, as far as I
 am able, to give you a description of this en-
 vied and battered Rock, which has excited the
 whole attention of *Spain* and *France*.

GIBRALTAR is in 36 degrees 7 minutes
 north latitude, it projects into the sea, and is
 in length near a league from north to south;
 in breadth irregular from half to three quarters
 of a mile; its head is frequently hid in the
 clouds. The summit of the Rock is about
 1400 feet perpendicular above the sea. It is
 joined to the continent by a neck of low and
 deep sand of the same breadth as the Rock it-
 self, but which widens considerably towards
 the *Spanish* lines. This isthmus is near a league
 in length, and, with the opposite coast,
 forms a noble and safe bay eight miles over.

The

The hill is of such an irregular form, that 1782 when you are near it you cannot view the Jan. 1. whole from any one part. Its head clearly faces the East, from thence to the *Moorish Castle* it fronts the north forward as far as the *Signal House*, the North-west, it then takes a turn and continues to *Europa Point* due South. On account of this oblique situation, when you approach the town from the inundation, you can see no farther of the Rock than the *Moorish Castle*, and even in town your sight is bounded by the old *Moorish Wall* [called by some *Charles the Fifth's*] After you have passed *Southport Gate*, and got upon the red sands, the town is hid from you, and all the hill to the North of the *Signal House*. The back of the hill is scalped and inaccessible, and this particular circumstance forms its chief strength. The head of the Rock is almost perpendicular, and composed of white stone which is burnt for lime. The batteries facing the isthmus are very strong and snug, which are carried on from the summit of the Rock, to the water's edge at the *Old Mole*, the extremity of which the *Spaniards* term *Una Poccia de Fugo*. The remains of the *Moorish Castle* are close to the batteries, at which place is the entrance into the lines; above the lines is *Willis's* and the upper batteries. Under the castle are two batteries, near *Crouchett's* house and gardens, lower down, and almost level with the water, is the *Grand Battery*, under which is *Landport*. Above the ruins of the town appear the walls of the army hospital, from which you have a view of the remains of *Bethlehem* barrack, formerly a nunnery, the *White*

1782 *White Cloisters* where the commissioners of the
Jan. 1. navy used to reside, formerly a monastery, and *St. Francis* where the Governor resides: The building, before the enemy fired, was plain, more convenient than elegant, but pleasantly situated near the bay, with a garden adjoining. The *British* church is adjacent to this building, but now divine service is performed on the *South Parade*, on account of the enemy's cannonade. The *Spanish* church for the performance of the Roman Catholic Religion was near the *Grand Parade* in the *Green Market*, the walls of which are yet standing. The inhabitants and soldiers repair to church by the beat of a drum. Near *Southport* stands the King's yard Grand store, and Victualling-office, which, notwithstanding the enemy's bombardment, has not suffered any considerable injury. Above *Southport*, on the outside of the gate is the citadel. The garrison is bounded by strong walls, and several well-executed batteries, particularly the *King's*, *South*, *Montague's Bastion*, and *Grand Battery*. The *King's Bastion* is able to contain one thousand men, being bomb proof, and is of a noble construction, planned by General *Boyde*, when Governor of the garrison.

The entrance to the garrison from the isthmus, is so narrow, that it is impossible to march an army more than six men abreast; and which passage is undermined,* so that, if necessity should require it to be charged with barrels of

* A mine is a hole dug, to be filled with powder to blow it up, but this is built with brick, and arched over, so that the explosion would be the greater.

of powder, and sprung, the besiegers would 1782 suffer considerably, and be thrown into the Jan. 1. greatest confusion. There are several pieces of cannon directed upon this path, loaded with grape-shot, which would scour the whole length, and cut off the assailants as fast as they advanced. The cannon placed at the *Old Mole-Head*, being level with the water, would sweep the whole isthmus; besides other pieces of ordnance placed in advantageous situations for the purpose of flanking.*

The principal buildings to the southward are, the *Naval Hospital*, now occupied by the sick soldiery and seamen; the *Barracks* for the troops, and two *Pavilions* for Officers; they are chiefly built of stone, and well suited for convenience; the rooms are large and airy, and have a handsome appearance from the Bay.

Near the *New Mole* are two magazines for powder, where it is lodged when landed from the ships, and as it is wanted, removed from thence to the *Grand Magazine* in the *Moorish Castle*. Near them is a pleasant vineyard, of a small length, which yields a great quantity of vegetables, but not sufficient to supply a sixteenth part of the garrison. It is supposed that the owner clears five thousand dollars per annum by it.—There are several houses on the heights that have been built by the officers and inhabitants, which command a delightful prospect of the Bay and the Gut; in short, most of the southward is covered with small and convenient dwellings.

The

* In military affairs, is the side of an army or battalion.

1782 The garrison is abundantly supplied with
 Jan. 1. water from the rain which descends from the
 heights of the Rock, through a body of sand
 and lime-stone, into a reservoir; this contains
 the annual supply till the next rainy season,
 which is towards the latter end of the year.—
 The shipping are supplied from this reservoir,
 by the means of pipes, which communicate
 near the sea, where there is a small cistern
 with spouts. The Faculty agree in opinion
 that it is good wholesome water.

*The following is the STATE of the STRENGTH
 of the several CORPS now here.*

| CORPS. | Strength. | CORPS. | Strength. |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Royal Artillery | 480 | 73d. - - | 811 |
| 12th. - | 469 | Hardenberg's | 345 |
| 39th. - | 448 | Reden's - | 347 |
| 56th. - | 450 | La Mott's - | 356 |
| 58th. - | 450 | Artificer's Comp. | 89 |
| 72d. - | 811 | | |
| | | Total | 5056 |

4th. Wind East. This morning early the *St. Philip's Castle* arrived here from *Mahon* with dispatches, having twenty-two *Spanish* prisoners on board, taken by the *English* in a sally made from that place. They say that General *Murray* is very closely besieged, and that the forces under his command, make the most stubborn opposition against both the *French* and *Spanish* troops who lay before the Castle.

The enemy on the isthmus keep repairing their works, and have got a great part rebuilt.

The

The fire on each side briskly continues, but 1782 most spirited from the close of the evening until the dawn of the morning, as the chief part of their labours are executed during the night-season.

A xebec arrived from the eastward this 8th. forenoon, and anchored opposite *Sandy Bay*.— The working-parties on the isthmus have not done any thing particular since the 4th inst.

Last night the *St. Philip's Castle* sailed to the 10th. eastward, and a small boat for *Tetuan*, in order to fetch supplies. All quiet in the Bay : We cannot imagine the reason that the enemy are not so alert and attentive as they were.

Wind E. Sailed the *Henry* and *Mercury* privateers to the west. None of the *Spanish* cruisers went in chace of them. The enemy threw up a branch of sand-work last night upon the isthmus.

This day two cutters made their appearance 16th. in the Gut. Wind N. E. The tower at *Cabrita* let fly a signal, upon which the *Spanish* squadron got in motion, consisting of a frigate, one large xebec, one smaller ditto, several gun-boats, and stood across to intercept them. The gun-boats got a-head, and discharged several shot at them, which the cutters returned, and kept their course, standing for the eastward, it being impracticable to work the port, as the wind blew right against them. The *Spanish* cruisers went in chace, and are now all out of sight. The works on the isthmus are going forward.

Antonio Juanico, a *Minorquen*, who arrived 17th. here in a fettee some time past, is convicted of having come for the purpose of procuring in-

L telligence

1782 telligence for the *Spaniſh* General, and ordered
Jan. for execution on the 4th of February ensuing.

18th. The enemy fire upon us with great fury, to
prevent our annoying their working parties.
Several wounded this afternoon.

20th. The town and southward regiments ex-
changed quarters this morning, to continue
three months before another exchange takes
place, unless circumstances should make it ne-
cessary.

23d. The isthmus parties are laboriously employ-
ed in forwarding their works, and an incessant
fire is kept up from the *Spaniſh* lines and forts,
upon our works and parties on the hill, as we
are repairing the breaches made, and construct-
ing some additional fortification to shelter our
men, and to destroy, if possible, the enemy's
approaches.

26th. Pleasant wheather. The enemy appear to
be busy at *Algaziras*, and in the rivers. We
imagine they are constructing additional gun-
boats there, to co-operate with those they al-
ready have. Isthmus working parties con-
tinue nightly to be employed.

29th. Wind S. E. The two cutters chased to the
eastward by the enemy on the 16th instant,
arrived early this morning: they prove to be
the *Viper* and *Lively*, laden with ordnance
stores; also arrived the *Dartmouth Tartar*
cutter, last from *Lisbon* in three days, with dis-
patches. A frigate, xebec, and some gun-
boats have returned from their vain pursuit in
chase of the *Viper* and *Lively*, mortified with
having missed their eager prey, and anchored
at their old station, watching every sail that
appears in sight. The enemy are preparing se-
veral

veral fire-ships at the mouth of the rivers be- 1782
tween *Algaziras* and *Orange Grove*, but for Jan.
what purpose we really cannot conjecture, 29th.
without it is for pastime, and the recreation
of their naval and land-forces, by reminding
them that they are inclinable to do mischief,
though incapable of effecting it. Our shipping
are all boomed in, and without they intend to
burn the clefts of the Rock, and set our sandy
beach on fire, they had better keep their pre-
sent distance, nor unthinkingly rush on, where
certain ruin must be the consequence. Our
garrison are pretty healthy, considering the
hardships, dangers, and scarcity of fresh diet,
which at present prevails; but of late, they
have been very much afflicted with the most
inveterate scurvy, which deprived many
of the use of their limbs, by rendering
them stiff and swelled. The flesh of the suf-
ferers, I assure you, was almost black; and
you would pity (were you a spectator) to view
them limping to their post, to partake of a
share with their comrades in oppofing the foe.
With every good wish, permit me to subscribe
myself

Your loving Brother.

LETTER XXIX.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1782 Feb. 1. THE besiegers, spurred on by hope and expectation, to work the reduction of the fortrefs, are indefatigably employed in forwarding the re-construction of *St. Carlos*, and the adjacents. From their batteries they continue a plentiful discharge of ordnance, by which we now and then lose a man. We anxiously long for the day of attack, as our situation is rather deplorable in respect of provision, and the harrassing duties of guards, picquets, working detachments, and parties, forwards the general wish for engagement. The constant duty with the soldiery is ten and eleven days and nights up, and probably when it comes to your turn to have a night to sleep in your tent, the enemy from the sea-line disturbs you from repose.

Prices of Provision brought by the Viper and Lively cutters, on the 29th of last month.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----|----|-------------|
| Common Green Tea per lb. | - | £.1 | 1 | • |
| Hams per ditto | - | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Corned Beef ditto | - | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| Port Wine per dozen | - | 1 | 14 | 5 |
| A sheep | - | 14 | 1 | 0 |
| Cheese per lb. | - | 0 | 4 | 10 <i>h</i> |
| Butter ditto | - | 0 | 4 | 10 <i>h</i> |

The enemy carry on their works in a rapid manner. They last night erected a battery of five embrasures on the west side of the *Mill-Tower*;

Tower; *St. Carlos*, by what we can discern from 1782 the heights of the Rock, appears to have received a complete repair. Our batteries endeavour, as much as possible, to prevent the executing of their labours on the isthmus.

Antonio Juanico, ordered for execution this day, is respited. Arrived from the westward two small vessels from *Portugal*, laden with lemons and oranges, a very refreshing supply.

A small boat, that appeared off *Cabritta-Point*, was fired at several times from the battery at that place, but without effect; upon this a *Spanish* lugger got under sail, endeavouring to cut her off, but to very little purpose, as the boat had nearly anchored before she had got half-bay over. She proves to be from *Lisbon*, laden with fruit and oranges.

The enemy's cruizers have been particularly busy all this day, running in and out alternately. We imagine they have received intimation of some vessel bound for this place. They on the land side keep working and firing.

Wind N. E. Arrived safe, the *Young Sabine*, 13th. with porter, wine, and potatoes. Our men of war's boats towed her round *Europa*. It is confidently asserted, that she has brought intelligence to the Governor of a very interesting nature, but we cannot learn the particulars. The *Spanish* cruizers were disappointed in missing the capture of this vessel, as all their attempts to effect it were rendered ineffectual.

Arrived the brig *Eliza*, with sundry articles on board, for the use of the garrison. The *Spanish* cruizers, who returned yesterday evening

1782 ing to *Algaziras*, made a signal too late, to do Feb. themselves any service: they are cruising in 16th. the Bay and round the Rock, but keep at long-gun shot distance; they came near *Europa*, but a few shot from that post made them steer another course.

The *Spaniſh* works are briskly forwarded, the iſthmus is almost become a ſcene of enchantment: the enemy certainly muſt employ a conſiderable number of men, or otherwife they could not make ſuch rapid progreſs in their advanſes

17th. Wind N. W. This morning a ſail appeared ſtanding from the weſtward; the *Spaniſh* tow-ers let fly a ſignal of an enemy's appearance; a frigate, xebec, and ſeveral gun-boats, imme-diately got under way, while the battery at *Cabritta-point* fired ſeveral rounds. The xebec bore down, when the *Engliſh* vessel opened upon her, and made her haul her wind, and ſoon afterwards ſhe dropped aftern, the frigate and gun-boats then ſtood across to intercept her, which ſhe as ſpiritedly engaged, receiv-ing two broadſides from the frigate, and ſeveral rounds from the gun-boats. After ha-ving engaged a conſiderable time, ſuch a ſuperior force, ſhe had the good fortune to get in without much damage, and proves to be the *Flying-ſhip* cutter, commanded by Captain *Anthony*, in eight days from *England*, laden with ordnance ſtores. Some of the enemy's boats being drove very near the garrifon, the batteries at *Europa* discharged a few shot at them, but plying their oars briskly, they got off without any injury. The various manœuvres of the latter, afforded the garrifon much entertainment.

Wind

Wind S. W. Last night a brig from the 1782 westward entered the Bay, observing the lights Feb. in the Spanish camp, steered for that place, 18th. imagining it must have been the town of *Gibraltar*. The captain continued his course till he came opposite to *Prince Orange's* battery, when the officer on duty there challenged the ship, who answered, “*From Cork.*” The captain now discovered his error, and finding he was steering under the enemy’s batteries, put about, and run aground at the back of the *Old Mole*, when *Fort Phillippe* and the *Black-Battery* began a fire upon her. The captain, when he landed, in a jocular manner endeavoured to apologize for the mistake, by saying, he intended to run his ship up to his merchant’s store-house. She has brought a supply of butter, pork, and potatoes, which is intended to be landed, if possible, this night. Her name is the *Governor Elliot* brig, *Samuel Seldon*, Master.

This morning we observed a battery of 12 20th, embrasures constructed on the isthmus, and in other parts the sand was thrown up as a cover. The enemy fired very warmly on the *Governor Elliot* brig, and have greatly damaged her—part of the cargo has been landed. A brisk fire continues on both sides.

A *Portuguese* schooner from the west, was taken between *Tarifa* and *Cabritta-point*, and brought into *Algaziras*, where there is not any doubt she will be condemned. The wind having sprung up easterly, a *Tartan* arrived from *Leghorn*, with a cargo of wine and useful necessaries. Several gun-boats also arrived from the east; we imagine them to be the remainder that chased the two cutters on the 16th of January.

Wind E

1782 Wind E. Sailed last night from hence the Feb. *Viper*, *Lively*, and *Dartmouth Tartar* cutters.

21st. About an hour afterwards the *Spanish* towers were illuminated, and a number of rockets thrown up. The enemy keep hard and constantly at work on the isthmus.

23d. Wind W. This morning the shipping at *Algaziras* was dressed with full colours, at noon a *feu de joye* was fired by land and sea, and repeated three times.

A ship appeared in the Offing, standing for this place, when a frigate and xebec made ready. She continued her course, and received their fire with great intrepidity, plying her guns in an heroic manner. After about an hour's fire she got in, and proves to be the *Mercury* store-ship, Captain *Heigbington*, from *Lisbon*, with wine, poultry, and fruit.

24th. Wind W. Arrived at *Algaziras* from the westward, a frigate, two xebecs, and two cutters, as a reinforcement to the *Spanish* squadron. The *Spanish* working parties are busily employed.

25th. Wind W. Arrived the *St. Ann* of 28 guns, in twelve days from *London*, with ordnance stores. Not any particular intelligence received, except that she was chased some leagues to the westward, and escaped during the night.

28th. Wind E. Arrived the *Indian King*, from *Leghorn*, with timber and liquors, a brisk fire on both sides was kept up. The enemy continue laboriously working on the isthmus, forwarding, with all possible expedition, their new approaches. The nearest branch is almost in a line with the north angle of *Landport Garden*.

Your affectionate Brother.

LETTER XXX.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE victors of one day are often defeated by another, and losethose laurels that were Mar. 1 carried in triumph from the field of slaughter. The fate of *Minorca* was announced here this morning, by a flag of truce from the *Orange-Grove*, with the intelligence of that fortress having surrendered to His Catholic Majesty's forces, and that the *feu de joye*, fired on the 23d of February, was in celebration of the conquest. It is not improbable but the enemy entertain lively notions of this place, and imagine that this piece of information may tend to depress our spirits, and facilitate a speedy surrender.

We kept up a very hot fire all the afternoon, and set the enemy's works in a blaze, which they extinguished shortly afterwards.

This morning our batteries directed their fire upon the enemy's advanced works on the isthmus, when a heavy and incessant cannoneade was spiritedly maintained between the enemy and garrison, till nine o'clock, during which time we had the fortune to set their works on fire again. The foe manifested a valour, and in an intrepid manner jumped upon the glacis, pouring baskets of sand upon the flames, when, after much difficulty and danger, they got the fire extinguished.

Wind E.

1781 Wind E. Last night the *Ilying-Fish* cutter, Mar. sailed to the westward with dispatches. The 4th. enemy keep advancing their approaches towards the garrison. The cannonade but slack these two days.

5th. Arrived the *Pearl Canario*, *Patron Prats*, from *Algiers*, with sheep and wine, the former sells at an exorbitant price.

A frigate from the eastward arrived this morning at *Algaziras*.—Several vessels at *Orange Grove*, are discharging ordnance stores, camp equipage, &c.—The reduction of the Island of *Minorca*, apparently has put the enemy in high spirits, as appearances in their camp, bespeak preparations for a reinforcement of troops. The enemy have redoubled the cannonade upon the garrison, and the advanced works are considerably lengthened: the next turn of the last branch will bring the line nearly to the centre of the Gardens. Our fire must be very distressing to them, they being so near to the Rock;—the small shells are distributed in abundance on their parties.

6th. One of the *Spanish* frigates sailed to the eastward: and this afternoon, the wind having shifted, another stood to the westward. A xebec and a cutter having approached too near the Rock, was fired at by our Prams, and obliged to bear away for *Algaziras*.

9th. The enemy keep working and moderately firing, by which Lieutenant *Cuppage*, of the Royal Artillery, was this day wounded: all quiet on the sea side.

10th. The enemy indicate fresh preparations for the ensuing storm, several parties being employcd this morning in clearing ground for a reinforce-

reinforcement of troops. A number of tents 1782 are already pitched. A xebec, which came Mar. near the garrison, had several rounds fired at 10th. her, which compelled her to sheer off. We discharged a number of carcasses upon the enemy's isthmus works, with an intent to burn them, but did not meet with the completion of our wishes. The gun-boats cover the face of the Bay, and lay upon their oars. Parties continue employed in pitching tents, and clearing ground in the *Spaniard* camp.

The enemy work most assiduously, and have 16th. raised a very high and well-planned breast-work, supposed by our engineers and artillerists to be intended for a mortar-battery.

This day arrived at *Algaziras* a frigate from the westward, but no salute was given.

The enemy's fire these three days has been particularly spirited, by which we had some few wounded, among whom is Lieutenant *White*, of the 56th regiment. Our batteries are now bravely playing upon the foe.

Wind S. Two frigates having come within 17th. the reach of our prams, anchored off the *New-Mole*; they began a well-directed and furious fire upon them. One of the frigates, it was observed, received several shot.

Our fishing-boats were drove out of the Bay 18th. this morning by a xebec, who kept a gentle sail, until, by her repeated firings, she made them all retreat to the shore. The inhumanity of this act is better to be conceived than expressed. The *Spaniards* are forwarding their works, and discharging their ordnance upon us.

The

1782 The Governor has ordered the bridge at Mar. *Landport* to be pulled down, and the communication to that post will be through the fallyport in the ditch,* where there is to be a temporary stage made, for the purpose of detachments passing and repassing from the covered-way, and out-guards. Also one of the slopes, by which the guards and centinels now ascend to their posts, is to be levelled. An encampment was began this morning on the west of the *Orange Grove*. We expect the siege will quickly come to an issue, from the preparations making by the foe.

We observed this morning, that the enemy had begun an encampment for cavalry, in the rear of the grand magazine, west of *Orange-Grove*.

22d. Last night, about eleven o'clock, a mill on *Windmill-hill*, constructed for the purpose of grinding wheat sent over from *Britain*, by some means took fire, and was consumed. The enemy are very busy with some shipping, which is imagined are intended for *fire-floats*.

24th. Wind W. Last night arrived the *Vernon*-store-ship, with materials for gun-boats, what we have long wished for. The *Success* frigate escorted her to latitude 36, when she left her, and returned to *England*. The *Success*, on her passage took the *Santa Catalina*, a *Spanish* frigate, who afterwards was burnt on the appearance of the *Cerberus* and *Apollo* frigates (suspecting them to be enemies) and four transports, that came in also during the night, having

* A door in a Bastion and Battery, for the purpose of making a fally, unexpectedly, on the besiegers.

ing on board the 97th regiment, as a reinforcement to the garrison. 1782
Mar.

Three very large ships, and four xebecs, arrived at *Algaziras*, imagined to be laden with stores and provision.

This day our flag of truce carried to *Orange Grove* some officers and men, put on board the *Vernon*, belonging to the *Santa Catalina* frigate. The enemy continue their usual working parties. From ten o'clock last night, till day-break this morning, a brisk fire was maintained with determined resolution, between forts *Barbary*, *Phillippe*, and the batteries on the heights of the hill. One shot from the enemy this day wounded four men—all in a dangerous way.

The enemy's ships and forts fired several rounds alternately. It is supposed the rejoicing is (on account of this being Passion-Saturday) in celebration of our Saviour's resurrection. The Spanish working parties have not done any quantity of work to-day.

This morning the batteries at *Willis's* and *Montague's Bastion*, opened with martial rage upon the isthmus works. Wind N. W. a very fresh breeze. Shot and shells were incessantly discharged, when one of the latter having penetrated into the fascines, immediately set that part in a flame, which continued burning until about thirty yards was consumed. The flames spread in a rapid manner, and the enemy did all they could to prevent the progress of the fire, nor could they extinguish it by any means, but was under the necessity of cutting an opening, as the only remedy to secure their approaches from being again destroyed.

The

1782 The troops in the camp of *Santa Roque* came March out of their tents to view the spirited action, while only the flash of guns, and exploding shells were to be seen; the isthmus, and northernmost part of the Rock being hid with the clouds of smoke.

Sincerely your's,

LETTER XXXI.

“ Who like the Cur barks at the crowd that passes?”

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

April 1 **S**UCH is the disposition of our invererate and malignant foes, every ship, sloop, or bark that appears, immediately a gun is discharged, and a cruizer sent out to interrogate, “ *From whence come ye, or where are you bound?*” A *Swedish* vessel was brought into *Algaziras* yesterday evening for not bringing to, upon a gun being fired from a double galley off the Point.

Arrived a vessel from *Portugal*, with ninety sheep during the course of the night.

This morning a soldier deserted from *Landport guard*, and received the fire of the musquetry of all the centinels, but without effect. The *Spanish* working parties are diligently employed.

Last

Last night a *Spaniard* deserter came in, and 1782 reports, that the soldier which deserted yesterday was wounded by our fire, and died in the greatest agony, in the *Mill Battery* (or *St Carlos.*) This forenoon a great many infantry tents was pitched east side of the *Horse Barracks*, and some squadrons of infantry marched in

April 2d.

The encampment west of the *Orange Grove* 9th. is taken possession of by troops ; but they do not appear very numerous, or perhaps they are tired with their march over the mountains, and keep their tents as a relaxation from their fatigue. The enemy cannonade the garrison excessively warm, three men and a boy wounded at *Willis's* by a rebound of a shot.—A new encampment is forming about a quarter of a mile from the *Horse District*.—The tents are for infantry, and appear quite new.

The encampment pitched yesterday is hourly increasing in the number of tents, but not any considerable body of troops appear. The enemy fired very hot this morning, and a shell which fell in *Landport Ditch*, just as the new guard came to relieve the old one, killed Lieutenant *Whetham*, of the 12th Regiment, wounded his servant who was on the right of the guard, and blew the drummer's drum in pieces. He was an amiable officer, and well respected ; the loss of him is much regretted by all ranks in the garrison.

Six lug-sail boats arrived from the westward ; from their form and construction we apprehend they are intended for landing of troops. Every thing now indicates a speedy and vigorous assault. Our enemies are seemingly prepared for

1781 for immediate battle, their isthmus works being almost completed.

11th. Wind W. Arrived a boat from *Portugal* with goats, fowls, &c. The Patron brings intelligence, that ships and floating-batteries are fitting up in the port of *Cadiz*, lined with cork and oakum, whose strength are to turn a cannon-ball, and that when *Duke de Crillon* arrives with his conquering, valiant, and successful troops, from the glorious expedition at *Minorca*, he is to take the command of the forces, and head the army in their attack upon this place. He says, that from the accounts received in *Portugal*, that the Spaniards are in high spirits from the recent success of the Duke at *Minorca*, that great expectation is placed on the valour of the troops under his command, and that on their arrival, the attack will commence.

15th. Arrived a large cutter at *Algaziras*, from the west. The enemy have brought forward their approaches considerably towards the garrison. A general discharge of ordnance prevails.

16th. Wind S. W. Two large xebecs arrived this forenoon on the opposite side, and several small settees, all from the westward.

The enemy's force now consists of three frigates, four large xebecs, one cutter, one bomb-ketch, at *Algaziras*; one large xebec, one cutter, one lugger, one bomb-ketch, at *Orange Grove*; one large xebec, one small ditto, one sloop of war at *Cabritta*; fifteen gun-boats, eight mortar boats, ten or twelve fire-ships in the rivers, besides what shipping they have at *Ceuta*, and cruizing to the eastward.

Landport-bridge is taken down, and it is reported that both the slopes are to be levelled, and

and only a timber ascent made, that in case of 1782 any emergence may be set on fire, to prevent April. the enemy's entrance into the ditch under the *Grand Battery*.

Our working-parties are employed in erecting splinter proofs upon the batteries on the hill, as a cover from the bomb-shells when they explode in the air, which the *Spaniards* have practised of late.

Wind N. W. This morning, upon a ship being discovered by the enemy in the Offing, they hoisted a signal on the tower at *Cabritta*, which not being answered, a xebec and sloop, stationed at the Point, slipped out, and bore down under a pressure of sail.—The xebec having got a-head, fired a broadside at her, which was directly returned by the ship; the sloop now came up, and fired a few guns, notwithstanding which, she continued her course, and got safe in, without any loss. She proves to be the *Antigallican* store-ship, in eight days from *Falmouth*. The enemy, apparently, are not so attentively employed on the isthmus as formerly.

The regiments in the town and southward exchanged quarters this forenoon.

Very little work done by the enemy.—The gun-boats brought over by the *Vernon*, are getting in great forwardness in the *New-Mole Yard*.

Several parties employed daily in bringing fascines into the *Spanish* camp. We suppose that the want of these materials has been the occasion of their ceasing from work these three days. Forts *Barbary* and *Phillippe*, the *Black-Battery*

1782 *Battery* and lines, fired this afternoon minute April guns, with shot, upon the garrison.

24th. This forenoon an experimental trial was made with one of the gun-boats, mounted with an eighteen pounder. The first and second shot fired horizontally recouched three or four times; the third had a degree of elevation, and went a distance in the bay. The Naval Commander promises great success from them when the twelve is finished. All hands busy at work upon them.

25th. This morning early a deserter from the Volunteers of *Argon* came in, and confirms a former account of ships being preparing for the purpose of attacking this garrison, lined with cork and junk to prevent the penetration of our shot. A few working parties again appear on the isthmus, but their labours are executed under cover.

27th. This day one of our long boats from *Ragged Staff* to the *New Mole* with iron, sprung a leak, and went to the bottom, unfortunately a man and a boy were drowned.

28th. Wind W. S. W. This morning two ships, brig-rigged, and a schooner, appeared in the Gut, with their heads standing to the east.—The *Spanish* towers made a signal of an enemy being at hand, upon which two xebecs, and eight gun-boats went out in order to secure them, but were unexpectedly disappointed, they proving to belong to the *French*. The rapidity of the current, and the wind having shifted to the N. W. the xebecs and gun-boats drove to the eastward.

30th. The enemy's batteries appear to be nearly finished; for notwithstanding we only now and

and then discharge a few rounds of shot and shells, they have not taken the opportunity of April doing any work. In the *Spaniſh* camp, a numerous army are ſeen—the whole Common at the foot of *Santa Roque*, is become a town and place of habitation, where a grand display of flaughtering instruments is exhibited, and the moſt renowned engineers, experienced artilleries, and approved ſoldiers and ſeamen, are bent upon our extirpation from this heart-galling Rock. That their views and intentions may be frustrated, is the ſincere and hearty wiſh of

Your affectionate Brother.

L E T T E R XXXII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

EVERY opportunity that offers of writing May 3 to you, I readily embrace, and find an infinite ſatisfaction in the employ, conſcious that your bosom feels for my abſence and ſituation; I ſhould conſider myſelf unpardonable in any omission.

The enemy continue the ſiege, and are getting in forwardneſs the moſt ſtudious preparations for an attack. It is beyond diſpute that the contention will ſhortly be finally adjuſted.

Last night, Wind E. ſailed the *Cerberus* and 8th. *Apollo* frigates, *St. Ann*, *Vernon*, *Mercury*, and *Antigallican* ſtore-ſhips; the *Betſey*, *Thompson*, *Loyal Briton*, and *Valiant* transports, at which

M 2 time

1782 time two *Spanish* frigates and three xebecs were, May 8. cruizing in the Gut. They had not been long under sail, when rockets were thrown up at *Algaziras*, and answered at *Cabritta*.—About an hour after a cannonading was heard in the Gut, and continued for some time tolerably brisk; and this morning we had the mortification to view the enemy returning with the three last named transports, being the only defenceless vessels that sailed from hence. Their sails were very much torn, and it is supposed the enemy alone directed their fire upon them, not liking to attack the store-ships; they have a formidable appearance in the night. Thus victorious they entered the Bay in triumph, and conducted their prizes (manned only with about twenty-one men) to the port of *Algaziras*, there to recount the dangers of the battle, and to regale themselves with the spoil.

9th. Wind W. S. W. This forenoon arrived from the westward one line of battle ship, convoying eight large store-ships or Indiamen. From the appearance of their rigging and sides, which is dry and shabby, and having but a few hands on board, we cannot imagine from what part they have arrived, or what occasion brought them in here. All hands busy about the *Spanish* camp.

10th. Wind S. E. Arrived a *Portuguese* sottee from *Tetuan*, with about 30,000 oranges, and a few pipes of oil. She was cleared out for *Cadiz*, but smuggled herself in here, where they will find a good market for their cargo.—Oranges are sold for a rial each, about fourpence three-farthings sterlinc.

The

The eight large ships that arrived over the 1782 way the 9th instant, are hauled close to the May shore, and are unrigging, and those that arrived the 24th March have proceeded to the *Orange Grove*. It is currently reported that they are lined with cork, and are to be converted into batteries, but most people think that they are more fit for fire-wood, than attacking a fortress.

The store-ships at *Algaziras* are quite unrigged, and a great many hands employed upon them clearing their decks. The land fire is maintained with spirit, but very little work seemingly going forward on the isthmus.

Last night three soldiers, in attempting to 20th. desert from the heights of the Rock, fell from a precipice, and were found dead under the *Sugar-Loaf*, lying near each other. They had procured a rope, and fastened it to a cleft of the Rock, but it was not of a sufficient length to reach the bottom.

Arrived a xebec and a galley from the westward at *Algaziras*. The enemy are employed upon two of the store-ships, cutting their sides down.

The enemy continue working on the two 25th. store-ships at *Algaziras*, and appear to be thickening with pieces of timber and other materials, their larboard sides. Several ports have been already cut: from this it is evident they are intended for floating batteries. Wind E. The other store-ships that lay at *Orange Grove* sailed from thence to the westward, having discharged their lading, which is supposed to be ordnance stores.

Arrived

1782 May Arrived the *St. George* xebec, with a small supply from *Leghorn*, having on board twelve *Corficans*, including one officer, who have voluntarily come to offer their service in the defence of this place. They mention that several more are preparing to embark on the same expedition.

26th. Arrived the *John Tartan*, Captain *Mc Killister*, from *Leghorn*, with a supply of wine and oil. She brings intelligence, that we may be assured of a vigorous attack, as soon as the *Spanish* ships are ready, which will be made so strong, and of such a nature, that they will neither burn nor batter.

The *Spanish* hospital last night took fire, and is entirely consumed.

27th. Wind S. E. Yesterday evening near one hundred sail of transports, and a bomb-ketch, arrived and anchored between *Algaziras*, and *Orange Grove*, and this morning we perceived they were very full of men, which are supposed to be troops.

28th. A considerable body of troops were landed from the transports this afternoon, and marched into the *Spanish* camp. The enemy had hauled two transports in, and have began unrigging them. The two large ships that the enemy have been working at, have each of them fourteen or fifteen port-holes cut in their larboard sides.

A flag of truce was received from *Spain*, but her message is mere conjecture with the public. Some say, she has brought a demand from the *Spanish* General, for the surrendering of the fortres; but this, I am confident, never will be

be done, while we have an ounce of bread, 1782
and a round of ammunition. May.

An *English Tartan* was taken to the eastward 30th.
and towed by the enemy into *Algaziras*, with
her colours reversed. It is asserted that this
vessel is the one that Patron *Pratt* sailed from
this port to *Algiers* for supplies.

Our twelve gun-boats in New-*Mole-yard* are
nearly finished; several are already in the wa-
ter, and lye very snug. We are very anxious
to make trial of them with the enemy. A boat
went out this day with a flag of truce into the
Bay, with the Governor's answer to theirs,
received the 28th instant.

The ships at *Algaziras* are getting pretty for-
ward; a number of hands are employed upon
them, but most of the garrison are of opinion,
from their construction, that they will be found
of very little use when they attack our walls,
as they never will be able to tow them near
enough to do any material execution, for
should they daringly come on, their boats will
be inevitably cut off by the grape shot from
the garrison.

We shall have pretty sport soon. I hope to
survive to send you an account of the particu-
lars, wherein a victorious repulse, I trust, will
be found; and probably before you receive this
letter, the battle will have taken place, and
the contest be decided.

With a heart glowing with zeal for the ho-
nour of *Britain* and her Dependencies, permit
me to conclude, with the most brotherly love
and esteem,

Sincerely yours,

LETTER

LETTER XXXIII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1782 June 1. THE enemy labour constantly at equipping the store-ships for service; from the lights observed at *Algaziras* last night, we imagine they were busy at work;—the masts of most of them are taken out.

This morning died here, Brigadier-General *Stanton*, of the 97th regiment.

3d. Wind E. This day a convoy of near fifty sail of different sizes, arrived from the eastward at *Algaziras*, with stores and provision for the use of their army and navy. The cannoade continues pretty brisk on both sides, but we have only a few wounded.

GARRISON ORDERS.

The Royal Standard to be hoisted to-morrow—The Governor desires to meet all the officers not on duty, on their respective parades, at guard-mounting to-morrow, to congratulate with them on the anniversary of his majesty's birth-day.

Such ordnance to be fired at the enemy's works, as shall be ordered by the Commanding Officer of the Royal Artillery, beginning at one o'clock.

4th. The royal standard was hoisted this morning on the flag-staff in town, and on board the *Brilliant* in *New Mole*. At one o'clock the northernmost

northernmost batteries fired forty-four rounds 1782 of shot and shells upon the enemy's forts and works, in honour of his majesty's birth-day. The shipping in the *New Mole*, and our twelve gun-boats arranged in a line from the *Tanks* to the pier of the *New Mole Head*, also performed a salute, and gave three cheers. The enemy maintained a brisk fire the whole day. The floating batteries (or cork ships) at *Algaziras*, are forwarding with all possible diligence.

A hot fire from the land batteries, upon our works and parties, which is as spiritedly returned from our heights.

Captain *Wideburg*, of *Reden's* regiment of *Hanoverians*, was wounded this day.

The *Spaniards* have a great many hands employed upon seven ships at *Algaziras*; most of them have ports cut in their sides, but none of them appear to be finished.

This forenoon our Artillery had some *red hot shot*, experimental practice, at the vessel wrecked off *Prince Orange's* battery, which succeeded pretty well. An unfortunate accident happened by a gun unexpectedly going off, which killed the gunner in the embrasure, and wounded three other men. A constant fire from the Rock Gun upon the enemy's works on the isthmus.

GARRISON ORDERS.

One quarter and half of a pint of vinegar to be issued to every ration, till further orders.

The

1782 June. The surgeons of the different corps are of opinion, that this will be a great preventative in the sad effects of the scurvy.

10th. The men employed upon the seven floating-batteries, work with the greatest assiduity, but as yet we cannot form any judgment of their utility or construction.

Early this morning the *Spanish* gun and mortar-boats made an excursion in the Bay, and discharged their ordnance upon the garrison: they fired very warm for an hour and three quarters, during which time we had several men wounded. A soldier is missing, supposed to have deserted.

11th. This forenoon, a thirteen-inch shell, fired from the enemy's works, fell upon a magazine at *Princess Ann's* battery, where there were many men at work and on duty; it forced its way through the splinter-proof which covered the magazine door, burst it open, and in the explosion blew up the magazine. We had fifteen men killed, and twenty-one wounded. Scarce had the explosion taken place, when the enemy began a very brisk cannonade and bombardment from every battery on the isthmus and lines, particularly directed to the spot where the unfortunate accident happened.— The Royal Artillery felt for the loss, and in retaliation gave the foe most heavy and well-directed discharges of shot and shells, which they met with astonishing bravery.

The man missing the 10th instant, was taken this day at the back of the Rock, by a party of men, and sent on board the *Provost* ship, a place of confinement, and answers the purpose of a garrison gaol.

The

The enemy labour with the utmost diligence 1782 on their floating batteries ; their whole attention seems to be engaged in their equipment. June. 13th. It is conjectured that in five or six weeks they will be completed, and ready for action. If they are not successful when they attack our walls, the enemy will be obliged to abandon them to our cannonade, as from their apparent heaviness, it cannot be supposed practicable to get them from their anchorage.

This day a soldier deserted from *Landport* 14th. guard ; the sentinels fired at him, but he made his escape without receiving any hurt from the musquetry.—Wind E. A *French* frigate convoying a number of small craft, arrived at *Algaziras* from the eastward with troops on board. About two o'clock this afternoon, a *Spanish* xebec was becalmed near the garrison. The southward batteries and prams, at *New-Mole Head*, fired upon her, assisted by Captain *Curtis*, and our twelve gun-boats. The xebec perceiving her situation to be growing very desperate, fired a gun to windward as a signal for assistance, while *Curtis*'s boats kept a fire upon her head. The enemy sent several small cruisers to her relief, when unluckily a breeze sprang up from the east, and two *Spanish* gun-boats towed her out of the reach of our guns. Had it continued a calm much longer, she must have been under the necessity of striking. She received several shot from the garrison guns.

The xebec we fired at yesterday, is observed 15th. to be upon her keel, no doubt repairing the damage she received.

Wind E.

1702 Wind E. A settee from the eastward was June. carried by a *Spanish* cruizer into *Algaziras*, under *English* colours; in all probability she was laden with cattle for the garrison, which is much wanted, and sells at a great price:—beef four shillings and ten-pence halfpenny per pound, and mutton five shillings and sixpence per pound. You may judge the scarcity and dearness, when I inform you that a bullock intended to be slaughtered, is purchased every pound before killed, except the liver, which sells at one shilling and sixpence per pound, and for which a crowd of women and children will be fighting for the purchase at the slaughter-house door. A bullock's head, without a tongue, has been sold for seven dollars and a half, which is according to the exchange of money, one pound three shillings and four-pence halfpenny, and the tongue for eight shillings and three half-pence.

18th. Yesterday evening, wind W. one *Spanish* ship of the line, three large store-ships, and eight other vessels arrived at *Algaziras*, from the westward. It is the general opinion of the garrison, that the three large ships are for the purpose of making floating-batteries, to co-operate with those now preparing at *Algaziras*, as they are hauled in under the land.

This afternoon, the wind having shifted to S. E. three frigates, and between seventy and eighty transports under *French* colours, with troops on board, arrived from the eastward, and anchored at *Algaziras*. We conjecture they have brought a reinforcement of about six thousand men. Our prams fired several shot at four of the enemy's gun-boats that came

came within reach : a shot went through the 1782
ail of the headmost, when they sheered off. June.

Three frigates, with several sail under con- 19th.
voy, passed to the westward—could not discern
to what nation they belong.

The troops arrived in the *French* transports 20th.
have begun disembarking ; several gun-boats
already landed at the pier of the *Orange Grove*.
A vessel with a *Spanish* ensign above the *English*,
was carried into *Algaziras*. The enemy are
busy in unrigging the three last store-ships,
and cutting down their fides. The fire from
the land side is continued with unabating
spirit.

A boat came over last night from *Algaziras*, 21st.
with two men taken in the settee the 17th in-
stant ; they cut the boat adrift. They report
that the *Spaniards* were in high spirits, and en-
tertain great expectation from ten junk ships
which are getting ready with all possible expe-
dition, whose strength and form will be im-
pregnable, both against shot and shells. We
shall of course find stubborn and difficult work
in engaging them.

The *French* troops finished landing this day,
and are encamped on the left of the *Spaniard*
army : they are commanded by the *Duke de*
Crillion. From the best account arrived, the
enemy's land forces amount to thirty thousand
men.

This day the enemy ceased firing on the gar- 23d.
rison, which is very surprising, as our work-
ing parties are numerous on the hill. The
enemy are very busy on their ten floating bat-
teries ; they have cut down the fides of the
three last ships arrived, almost level with the
water.

The

1782 The enemy's batteries are still silent; every June. thing on the isthmus wears a different appearance. It is imagined that *Duke de Crillion* succeeds *General Alvarez* in command, and that a new arrangement of operations has taken place. We fire very negligently on the enemy, and that mostly in the night. The floating batteries have a number of hands at work upon them, but we cannot make out what they are doing.

27th. All quiet on the isthmus, excepting now and then a shot for diversion, which sometimes we return, and sometimes not. Our Governor has taken this opportunity of repairing and strengthening the works and batteries. Several strong working parties employed to the northward.

29th. Little fire from the enemy. The floating-batteries are forwarding with incredible expedition. The enemy have begun forming something over the deck of one of them, we suppose for a splinter-proof—time will manifest the use of it.

I remain,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately Yours:

LETTER

L E T T E R XXXIV.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE enemy observe great silence on the ¹⁷⁸² isthmus, but an unusual activity appears July 1. in and about their stores and grand magazine: some are of opinion that the attack will be made sudden and in the night time. We are well satisfied with the ceasing of the cannonade, as it affords us the opportunity of repairing our very-much shattered and damaged works. This morning we fired six shells from *Willis's* into the *Spanish* lines, which they answered with one shot.

Six battalions in the *Spanish* encampment, struck their tents this morning, and removed to another part of the camp.

All busy at *Algaziras*. The construction of the cover of one of the floating batteries is much resembling the roof of a house, but at the distance they now are, cannot hazard a description. The general opinion of the garrison is, that the enemy will experience great labour and difficulty to bring them on, as they must be very heavy from the quantity of timber which compose their bulk.

The regiments in the garrison for several days past, have been practising firing ball from the line-wall, at a target placed a small distance from the Rock, in the sea.

Some few shot and shells from the enemy this day. The floating batteries are in great forwardness. The

1782 The junk ships are not yet completed ; they July. have roofed a second, and began a third ; so 6th. that we imagine they will all be finished in the same manner.

7th. Wind W. Early this morning a brig from the westward was discovered in the Offing, the *Spanish* towers hung out the signal of an enemy, when a xebec and four gun-boats pushed out : the boats soon came up with her and began a fire, which she returned, and beat them off : the xebec then bore down and boarded her in a manful manner ; and shortly after they hoisted the *Spanish* colours above the *English* : she was conducted under this escort in triumph to *Algaziras*. We feel a sensible uneasiness in not having a force sufficient to protect any vessel standing for the Bay. It must be very distressing, after a vessel has escaped crossing the sea, to be taken in sight of their destined port, and sometimes almost within reach of the garrison guns.

This afternoon arrived from the westward, and anchored at *Cabritta*, a frigate and a xebec. We expect some other vessel is in sight of the coast.

10th. The enemy continue working on the cork ships, roofing them over, which makes them have a very odd appearance. A serjeant is missing supposed to have deserted.

11th. This afternoon four men belonging to one of the Prams, went in a boat to the enemy. We fired at them, but too late to prevent their escape. The serjeant missing on the 10th, was found at the back of the rock, half way down, but for want of a rope could not get any further.

This

This morning a soldier deserted from *Queen's* 1782 *Lines Guard*. A Prophet is taken up, and sent July on board the *Provost ship*. Like *Jonah* warning the city of *Nineveh*, so he publicly avowed that within six weeks, six days, and six hours, from last Saturday at twelve o'clock, the garrison would be taken, and the Governor killed: he is a soldier belonging to the 73d regiment, and, at the expiration of the time, there is no doubt but he will suffer for his folly.

This morning came in a deserter from *Spain*: 14th. he says that there are forty-four battalions in camp; that *Duke de Crillion* has made a thorough survey of all the works, and is gone to *Madrid* to report to his Catholic Majesty. The enemy have not completed any of the floating batteries—They have begun this morning forming a boom across the harbour at *Algaziras*, for the protection of their shipping—We flatter ourselves that they are apprehensive of the arrival of our fleet.

Wind W. The *French* convoy sailed to the 16th. eastward, and the men of war are in readiness to weigh. The boom at *Algaziras* is lengthening considerably. From these circumstances, we conjecture that we shall shortly find relief. The floating batteries come on apace.

The boom is lengthened about two thousand 17th. yards, and covers all the floating batteries. The *Spanish* cruisers are very alert, and neither trust to colours or signals. The enemy have begun a battery near *Tarifa* (from the account the deserter gives that came in on the 14th) and that six hundred men were detached for that purpose.

N

Wind E.

1782 Wind E. Six large boats arrived from the July eastward at *Algaziras*; they appear to be new, 18th. and of the construction of their gun-boats. The enemy keep working day and night at the floating batteries; the roof of one is quite finished, and is much like the top of a house, with a gradual ascent from head and stern.

19th. The boom at *Algaziras* is extended the length of the town, and all the cruizers are on the inside; the bomb ketch which lay at the *Orange Grove*, weighed anchor, and has taken her station at the same place. The old pastime of shot and shells cannot be forgot, we keep playing away manfully. A sailor who happened to be in town when a shell burst over his head, exclaimed (with the usual oath for which they are so much distinguished) " *D-n*, but the Spaniards have got a battery in the air."

21st. All hands busy at work on the opposite shore; three of the floating batteries are roofed over. The regiments exchanged quarters this day.

23d. Wind W. A large xebec arrived and anchored at *Algaziras*. The enemy have nearly roofed another of the floating batteries, and the three last that were taken in hand, are in great forwardness.

24th. The serjeant taken at the back of the Rock on the 11th, was executed for the same, and died with a penitence becoming his unhappy situation.

25th. Wind strong E. Arrived the *St. Philip's Castle* and *General Murray* floop of war, from *Leghorn*; they have brought provision for the garrison, with five officers and seventy-five *Corsicans*: they bring the agreeable intelligence of

of Admiral *Rodney* having defeated the *French*, 1782 and taken the *Ville de Paris* of 110 guns, with July. four other line of battle ships. Our Governor 25th. ordered a salvo from the batteries, and a *feu de joye* to be fired, which you will perceive by the

GARRISON ORDERS.

Parole RODNEY. *A feu de joye* to be fired this day to celebrate the victory gained by his majesty's fleet under the command of Sir George Rodney, over the French fleet in the West-Indies. All the ordnance from the Rock gun to Princess Carolina's inclusive, to be fired at one o'clock, beginning at the Rock gun shotted. At six in the evening the regiments will take post on the line wall, in the following order, drawn up two deep.

The 72d regiment right to the Prince Hesse's battery; 12th join the left of 72d; the two town companies of Artillery on the King's bastion; the 39th on the left of the 12th; Lieutenant-General Reden's left of 39th; Major-General La Mott's left of Reden's; 73d right at Ragged-staff; 56th on the left of 73d; the three South Companies of Royal Artillery in the New-Mole fort.—Two rockets will be thrown up on the right, as a signal to begin the first round; two from the left, when the fire returns from thence for the second round; and two more from the right for the third round. Three cheers when the firing is finished, to begin on the right, and pass along in the same manner as the firing did.

The shipping and gun-boats fired and cheered at one o'clock; the hill batteries saluted the enemy's works with ball, and the regiments

1782 performed in the evening a running fire of July three rounds, which had a pleasing effect.

25th. I hope this success will contribute to distress and dispirit our foes, who, vaunting of their power, bluster, threaten, and claim victory as their own. Their impregnable floating batteries will shortly be tried, and though the *Spanish* gazettes boast of unborn achievements, yet there is not the least doubt but our red hot pills will effectually answer our purpose. They must be of an amazing construction if blazing twenty-four and thirty-two pounders will not burn them.

This being St. *James's* Day, the enemy's ships were dressed and saluted three times.—The enemy roofed over another floating battery.

26th. Wind W. Arrived a small settee from *Portugal* with wine and fruit. She has brought a confirmation of the glorious defeat of the *French*. The enemy endeavoured to take her, but were too late in getting out.

30th. The floating batteries come rapidly on; another of them is roofed over. The enemy devote their whole time and study to get them finished; they work day and night. On our part, being convinced they are intended to attack the place, we as anxiously wish for their speedy equipment to give the decisive stroke.—It will be hot and stubborn work, if they are of the strength reported, namely, *bomb-proof*, that will resist a shell which weighs two hundred before it is discharged from the mortar, and when it descends, is supposed to fall thirty ton weight.

Yours, &c.

L E T T E R XXXV.

Their blooming hopes soar high in this delusion,
To gain possession of this envied place,
And on the battlements Spain's ensigns spread.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE foe, ere long, will make their pro- 1782
mised storm—their batteries are com- Aug. 4.
pleted, and their junk-ships almost ready. A
numerous army encamped, and boats for land-
ing their troops are in the rivers. It is pro-
bable that this month will be the grand deci-
sion of the combat, and we heartily wish it, as
we are almost worn out with constant toils,
harrassing expectations, and a severe cannon-
ade, which the enemy began again yesterday
evening.

The enemy have brought several fire ships
out of the rivers; the floating batteries have
a very ugly and odd appearance: we think
they were mounting ordnance in one to-day,
as a great number of boats were along side.

The *Corficans* that arrived here from *Leghorn*,
are formed into a company, viz.

Signor *Antonio Leonetti*, Captain; *Phillippo Massaraia*, Captain Lieutenant; *Georgio Alexandria Michili*, First Lieutenant; *Leonardo Monti*, Adjutant, with the rank of Lieutenant; *Angelo Raffaelli*, second Lieutenant; *Lugi Cotie*, Chaplain; four Serjeants, four Corporals, two Drummers, and 68 private men:—total eighty-four.

A deserter

1782 A deserter from the enemy came in, and Aug. says that the floating batteries are almost ready, 7th. and that one has been tried with ball, and answers their expectation.

8th. Wind W. Arrived two vessels under Imperial colours, from the westward at *Algaziras*, and the line of battle ship sailed from that place to the *Orange Grove*, supposed to take in powder and stores. The floating batteries are very near finished. The enemy fire with spirit from the land side.

11th. Wind E. This day arrived a *French* twenty gun ship, on the opposite side. Several parties are employed on the strand, beyond the *Spanish* lines, we suppose for the purpose of erecting a battery, they being apprehensive of a visit in that part, whenever our fleet arrives.

The ship that came in yesterday, has removed to the *Orange Grove*, probably to discharge her cargo. The enemy keep labouring at their junk ships, and have taken the masts out of one of them, but most people are of opinion they never will be able to bring them over without sails.

12th. The enemy have put smaller masts into the ship that they dismasted yesterday, and are very busy rigging her—From this it is evident they mean to fail to their anchorage. From what opinion we can at present form, we imagine from their closeness and wanting air, that they will find an inconvenience in working their guns with briskness.

13th. Wind W. Sailed the *Eliza* brig, for *Leghorn*. The vessels arrived under Imperial colours, sailed to the *Orange Grove*. The enemy are very busy in rigging two of the floating batteries. Arrived

Arrived a frigate, under *French* colours from 1782 the westward at *Algaziras*—Four gun boats fired at her, apprehending she was an enemy, 14th. until she displayed her colours.

The enemy have taken out the masts of four of the batteries, and replaced them with others much smaller, the two that were rigging have bent their sails—We imagine they will shortly all of them be ready.

During the course of last night, the enemy 16th. erected a work composed of sand bags, extending obliquely from the eastern shore, towards the centre of the *Spanish* lines. It is computed from its length and height, and having so short a space of time to complete it in (only about six hours darkness) that there was not less than ten thousand men employed in the execution of it.—At present it is masked, but there is not the least doubt but the enemy intend it for a battery.

The enemy have hauled out one of their 17th. floating batteries being perfectly finished; she has a very awkward and surprising appearance, and lies low in the water:—they are very attentive in equipping the others. Wind W. arrived a cutter from the westward, and saluted the Admiral with eleven guns, which he returned with three. A tolerable brisk cannonade from the enemy's forts and lines.

About eleven o'clock this forenoon the enemy 18th. made a grand display in the bay—seven barges with crimson awnings proceeded from *Algaziras*, attended by twelve gun boats to the *Orange Grove*—In half an hour after their arrival, they put off in the same order, upon which the shipping immediately dressed, and the

1782 the Admiral gave a salute of twenty-one guns Aug. —the other shipping also fired, and the gun 18th. boats each of them discharged their ordnance.

A frigate got under weigh from *Algaziras*, and under a gentle sail went to meet the barges, which when she had come half way she gave a salute of twenty-one guns, the gun boats fired alternately, until the barges got to *Algaziras*, when another royal salute was given. The barges then went on board the junk ship hauled out yesterday, and a discharge of cannon continued while the visitors remained on board —Having gratified their curiosity in the examination of the floating battery, they went on board the Admiral's ship to dine, and regale themselves, and drank a hearty bumper in success to their undertaking, where they continued till six o'clock in the evening, when, in the same procession they came in, they returned to the pier at the *Orange Grove*, and on their landing, another salute was given.— Some are of opinion that this rejoicing is occasioned by the arrival of a Prince of the Blood, and others that it is the Admiral who is to command the floating batteries.

19th. This forenoon a flag of truce from the *Orange Grove* came over, and rowed along pretty near our line wall, until she came opposite *Ragged-staff*, when one of our boats went out with Captain *Valloton*, of the 56th regiment (chief Aid-de-camp to the Governor) and spoke to her, and soon afterwards returned.—The boat kept very close in with the shore, making a survey of the works, when the *Repulse* (an advanced gun boat) fired a shot as a caution for her to keep her proper distance.—Soon after

ter Captain *Valloton* returned to the flag of 1782 truce, which brought a handsome present of Aug. fruit and game for the Governor, from *Count* 19th. *de Artois*, whose arrival in the *Spanish* camp occasioned yesterday's rejoicing.—The floating batteries are rigging with the utmost expedition. The day of trial is very near at hand, I hope we shall acquit ourselves in the defence of this place with honour and success.

This morning our Governor sent out a flag of truce to the enemy, with a return for the present received yesterday. I am confidently told, it consisted of a cask of beef, pork, and butter, a cheese, a puncheon of rum, a sheep and a goat, some poultry, and a quantity of potatoes, “ with the General’s compliments to the Count, thanking him for his kindness, and assuring him that he did not want any refreshments.” This was policy to make the enemy believe that our situation was not so deplorable as they imagined.

Wind E. This morning we observed the 21st. *Eliza* brig that sailed from hence on the 13th, returning from the eastward under a *Spanish* ensign, and also thirteen large boats which we imagine are for the purpose of landing troops; from their size it is not improbable but each of them may contain five hundred men.—Six of the floating batteries are almost rigged—two completely equipped for battle.

This forenoon our batteries poured upon the 22d. enemy’s works a considerable discharge of shot, shells, and carcasses, and had the satisfaction to set the enemy’s advanced isthmus work on fire, which burnt most furiously for an hour or better. A brisk fire was maintained on both sides

1782 sides with the firmest spirit and bravery, and Aug. the enemy were several times drove off their works, and forced to abandon a battery on the left of *St. Carlos*, termed the *Mabon* battery. We fired from the garrison in the space of an hour, near fourteen hundred rounds—the cannonade continued furious till nine o'clock, when the enemy rather slackened their fire. We had only three men wounded, but judge what loss the foe must have sustained, as they had a body of near two thousand men employed, in endeavouring to extinguish the fire.

23d. The enemy have roofed another floating battery, and are rigging those that are already roofed; one of them appears to have about twenty-six ports on one side. Our batteries keep playing away upon the isthmus, and we have been using every means to fire the enemy's works again, but all ineffectually.

24th. The sand-bag work erected on the 16th instant, consists of four batteries of sixteen guns each. The enemy are busy in nailing down their platforms, and getting all things in readiness to mount the ordnance—They will be able to scour our lines, and advanced posts from this work; they are forming bomb batteries in the rear of the cannon of their advanced batteries; so resolutely determined are they upon the capture of the old Rock.

25th. The enemy had a rejoicing to-day on the sea-side—in the morning at sun-rise, the ships dressed and fired, as did also the island near *Algaziras*—this was repeated again at noon, and at the going down of the sun. The floating batteries are almost ready.

The

The *St. Philip's Castle*, and the ordnance 1782 store shipping that lay in *Rosia Bay*, hauled in Aug. this morning to the *New Mole*. The bay on 26th. our side is quite clear, as all our ships are now within the boom. From the circumstances of the siege, it is whispered that the seamen are to be landed, and incorporated into a brigade, to act as soldiers within the walls, under the command of Captain *Curtis* as Colonel. The enemy have eight of their floating batteries roofed—the day of battle is nigh at hand.

This morning a deserter came in from *Spain*, 27th. and brings advice, that the enemy have every preparation made on the land-side for the assault, and that they are only waiting for the junk ships, when they mean to attack us in every quarter—He also says that eight line of battle ships are expected from *Cadiz*, to act in conjunction with the *flotantees*. He was taken prisoner at *Minorca*, by *Duke de Crillion*, and inlisted into a *French* regiment, but not liking to fight against his king and country, embraced the first opportunity of making his escape.

Wind W. Arrived at *Algaziras*, six line of 28th. battle ships, two xbecs and a cutter. The ninth floating battery is almost roofed, but is much smaller than the others.

The deserter that came in yesterday, says, that on the night of the 16th, he was among the number that helped to erect the sand bag work, and from the accounts in the *Spanish* camp, there was about eleven thousand men employed to effect it, that had we fired towards the eastern shore, the greatest part must have been cut off.

The

1782 The crews of the men of war and other
 Aug. shipping in *New Mole* are landed, and employ-
 29th. ed in bringing their stores on shore. The sea-
 men are in good spirits, and swear bitterly
 against the *Dons*.—This little reinforcement
 will be of great service to us. The enemy
 fire brisk on the land side.

GARRISON ORDERS.

30th. *The officers and crews of his majesty's ships:*
 being landed, are to be encamped at *Europa*, and
 to form the *Marine Brigade*. *Captain Curtis com-*
manding his majesty's ships in the Mediterranean
is appointed to serve as Brigadier General.

You would finile to view the tars handling
 their firelocks, and marching full accoutred ;
 the boatswain's pipe—all hands aloft,—brace
 the yards,—tacks and sheets, &c. are no longer
 heard,—the glittering beauties of the
 parade engage the attention, while whistling
 winds, and roaring billows are forgotten.
 Thus military equipped, they long for battle,
 to perform their evolutions and manœuvres,
 which on a parade might excite laughter, but
 amidst blazing cannon, and clouds of smoke,
 every awkward appearance will be hid—If they
 prime and load expeditiously, it is all that
 will be required, nor will they need to *rest;*
shoulder, or poise.

Yours &c.

P. S. Inclosed are the copies of two letters, said to be
 written by the *Duke de Crillon*, and his Excellency *General*
Elliott, on the 19th and 20th instant.

Camp of Buena Vista, August 19, 1782.

SIR,

HIS Royal Highness *Comte d' Artois*, who 1782 has received permission from the King, Aug. his brother, to assist at the siege as a volunteer 30th. in the combined army, of which their most Christian and Catholic Majesties have honoured me with the command, arrived in this Camp the 15th instant. This young Prince has been pleased in passing through *Madrid*, to take charge of some letters, which had been sent to that capital from this, and which are addressed to persons belonging to your garrison—his Royal Highness has desired that I would transmit them to you, and that to this mark of his goodness and attention, I should add the strongest expressions of esteem for your person and character; I feel the greater pleasure in giving this mark of condescension in this august Prince, as it furnishes me with a pretext, which I have been anxiously looking for these two months that I have been in this camp, to assure you of the high esteem I have conceived for your Excellency, of the immense desire I feel of deserving yours, and of the pleasure to which I look forward of becoming your friend, after I shall have learnt to render myself worthy the honor of facing you as an enemy. His Highness the *Duke de Bourbon*, who arrived here twenty-four hours after *Comte d' Artois*, desires also that I should assure you of his particular esteem.

Permit

1782 Permit me, dear General, to offer you a few Aug. little trifles for your table, of which I am sure 30th. you must stand in need; as I know you live entirely upon vegetables, I should be glad to know what kind you like best. I shall add a few partridges for the gentlemen of your household, and some ice, which I presume will not be disagreeable in the excessive heat of this climate, at this season of the year—I hope you will be obliging enough to accept the small present I send with this letter.

*I have the honor to be, &c.
His Excellency General Elliott, &c.*

Gibraltar, Aug. 20.

SIR,

I FIND myself highly honoured by your obliging letter of yesterday, in which your Excellency was so kind as to inform me of the arrival in your camp of his Royal Highness the *Comte d' Artois*, and the *Duke de Bourbon*, to serve as volunteers at the siege. These Princes have shewn their judgment in making choice of a master in the art of war, whose abilities cannot fail to make great warriors. I am really overwhelmed with the condescension of his Royal Highness, in suffering some letters for persons in this town to be conveyed from *Madrid* in his carriages. I flatter myself that your Excellency will give my most profound respects

respects to his Royal Highness, and the *Duke 1782 de Bourbon*, for the expressions of esteem with Aug. which they have been pleased to honor so in- 30th. significant a person as I am.

I return a thousand thanks to your Excellency for your handsome present of fruits, vegetables and game, you will excuse me however I trust, when I assure you, that in accepting your present, I have broken through a resolution, which I had faithfully kept since the beginning of the war, and that was, never to receive, or procure by any means whatever, any provisions, or other commodity for my own private use; so that without any preference, every thing is sold publicly here, and the private soldier (if he has money) can become a purchaser as soon as the Governor. I confess I make it a point of honor to partake both of plenty and scarcity in common with my brave soldiers; this furnishes me with an excuse for the liberty I now take of intreating your Excellency not to heap any more favours on me of this kind, as in future I cannot convert your presents to my own private use. Indeed, to be plain with your Excellency, though vegetables at this season are scarce with us, every one has got a quantity proportioned to the labour he has bestowed in raising them: the *English* are naturally fond of gardening and cultivation, and here we find our amusement in it, during the intervals of rest from public duty.

The promise which the *Duke de Crillion* makes to honour me, in proper time and place, with his friendship, lays me under infinite obligations: the interests of our Sovereigns being once

1782 once solidly settled, I shall with eagerness em-
Aug. brace the first opportunity to avail myself of
so precious a treasure.

*I have the honour to be, &c.
His Excellency Duke de Crillion, &c.*

LETTER XXXVI.

Gibraltar

DEAR BROTHER,

Sept. 1. THE grand action has not yet taken place, though every day adds fresh convincing proofs of a speedy termination. The enemy strenuously exert themselves both by land and sea ; they have hauled out five of their floating batteries in a line with the first, having bent their sails, and otherwise rigged them. On the isthmus is a battery almost within a pistol shot, sufficient of itself

To strike with dread a legion of infernals,
When told they must withstand its mighty rage.

In the camp of *Santa Roque*, an army of fifty thousand men parade, not worn out with the heavy toils of war, but healthful and vigorous, while our garrison, deprived of all nourishment, and almost as feeble as old age for want of succour, can muster very few more than five thousand men and boys, including sick, wounded, and disabled, to repulse the efforts

efforts of such a superior force. Lieutenant 1782. *Campbell*, of the *Brilliant*, was privately dis- Sept. 1. patched with letters to *Portugal* from the Governor, to convey to *England*.

But as we're actors—*Europe* the spectators,
I trust we shall perform in th's great cause,
As men determin'd to maintain the right
Of *George* our king, and *Britain's* fame and welfare.
Although the foe has made a heft'ring boast.
That each discharge from land and sea we'll find,
Two thousand shot and shells from guns and mortars,
Will constantly be show'ring on the garrison.

Wind E. Two *French* line of battle ships, which seemingly stood for the westward, came into *Algaziras*, on a frigate's speaking to them. 3d.

This morning, sixteen large boats came out of the river, and went to the *Orange-Grove*: they appear to be for the purpose of landing troops, from having a high and thick parapet at the head. Seven of the *Spanish* junk ships sailed from *Algaziras* to *Orange-Grove* this afternoon; they had a very stiff breeze from S. W. but were two hours in performing the distance of four miles. They look very unwieldy, and lay deep in the water; three of them have two tier of guns. 4th.

The enemy's naval force now stands thus:— Nine ships of the line; three frigates, four xebecs, eight gallies, two cutters, one *French* ship twenty guns, nine floating batteries complete, one ditto almost finished, one bomb-
ketch,

1782 ketch, about one hundred gun and mortar-
Sept. boats, besides boats for landing troops.

6th. The enemy have been assiduously employed in mounting guns in their sixty-four gun battery. We have kept almost an incessant fire from the rock-gun upon it, but it being so thick covered with sand, the shot makes very little penetration. An additional field officer is ordered to take post in the lines, and a reinforcement to the *New Mole* guard. The *Corsican* company that were embodied August 4th, are ordered for duty to-morrow. Every one that is able to fire a musket, or carry a shot, must take post upon any alarm. The tenth floating battery is roofed, and they have begun to rig her ;—a few days more, and then we shall fall to it *ding-dong*.

A floating castle was towed from the river to *Orange Grove* ; upwards of two hundred boats lay at the mouth of the first river. Three *French* polacres arrived from the westward at *Algaziras*, with troops. A *Spanish* deserter came in last night, says, the enemy are only waiting for the Prince of *Nassau*.

7th. The three remaining junk ships at *Algaziras*, have taken in their masts. The enemy have erected stairs on the floating castle arrived at *Orange Grove* yesterday. At day-break this morning, several of the enemy's cruizers appeared off the *Old Mole* ; and for want of sufficient light, the sentinels alarmed the guards, with the arrival of the junk ships. Five line of battle ships, and one of the junkers, proceeded to *Orange Grove* this afternoon ; the latter was three hours on her way.

GARRISON

GARRISON ORDERS.

1782
Sept.

The marine brigade to take Europa advance, and Little-bay guards to-morrow.

Reinforcements are ordered likewise to *Prince's-lines, Landport, Waterport, Main and Ragged-staff* guards.

This morning, Lieutenant-General *Boyde* 8th. took post on the grand-battery (having command of all the batteries) and the necessary arrangements being made from the rock-gun to the *Old-Mole-Head*, we began a furious cannoneade of red-hot balls upon the enemy's *Mahon-battery* (mounted with six pieces of ordnance) and other lines of approach, together with a supply of shells and carcases;—the most intoxicating joy gained possession of the soldiery, and every heart and hand was cheerfully employed; and while gazing crouds who had taken post upon *Andalusia's* hills, beheld the volleys of destruction that flew in showers, and the sad effects that were productive of the red-flaming balls, our men rejoiced, and made a pastime of the dire employ. The foe withstood our fire with intrepidity, until most of their works and the thirteen-gun battery next the bay, were blazing in several places, and strewed over with mangled limbs and dead bodies. Several parties appeared upon the glacis, and in an undaunted manner, tore up the fasciens: some kept pouring of baskets of sand upon the parts that were on fire, and others running to the sea for buckets of water. Thus they stood, while showers of balls fell on every side, and many were observed to be knocked off the

O 2

works.

1782 works. I assure you, it was a horrid scene of Sept. slaughter, and the enemy were constrained to cease their cannonade, to save the remainder of their men. The fire continued in this spirited manner from seven till near one o'clock, during which we had several killed and wounded, among whom were Lieutenant *Boag*, of the Royal Artillery, and Ensign *Gordon*, of the 58th regiment, but not mortally. The battery, which mounted thirteen pieces of cannon, was entirely consumed.

9th. This morning, between four and five o'clock, the enemy discharged between fifty and sixty shells in a volley on the garrison, and immediately after, opened their sixty-four and other batteries (amounting to about one hundred and thirty pieces of cannon and eighty mortars) with the greatest spirit, which we immediately answered. Their sixty-four gun battery was an incessant volley the whole time, which lasted most of the day, and the distance being so short, their shot reached the walls almost as soon as you perceived the flash; the discharge was so quick, that the balls rolled along the streets by dozens; this was by way of retaliation for the unexpected compliment we paid them yesterday. Lieutenant *Wharton*, of the 73d, and several men were wounded. The two floating batteries at *Algaziras*, have got their sails bent.

Wind E. Their line of battle ships, nine in number, viz. seven *Spanish*, and two *French*, accompanied by a xebec and frigate, stretched over in a line from the *Orange Grove* this forenoon, and fired upon the garrison until they passed *Europa*, when they tacked again, and returned

returned firing the same way, they then stood 1782 to the opposite side, where they lay with their Sept. sails loose till near sun-set, when they again stretched over, and under a gentle sail directed their fire to the southward, in the same manner as before, continuing their course to the eastward, at which time their gun-boats came over, and rowed in a line under the *King's Bastion*, and began a fire, but our batteries gave them such a smart reception, that they found it convenient to withdraw. The 97th regiment, which landed last March, are ordered to do duty.

About one o'clock this morning, the nine 10th. line of battle ships returned from the eastward, and fired upon *Europa* and the southward encampments: they continued a brisk cannonade until they came near the *King's Bastion*, when they stood over to the *Orange Grove* and anchored; several seamen at *Europa* and others, were wounded thereby. They repeated this manœuvre again this forenoon, but having been frequently struck by our shot, they came to an anchor on their own side, where we observed two of them repairing.— From the land side, they also maintain a brisk cannonade, and their sixty-four gun battery represents an entire blaze. It is apprehended that we shall suffer considerably from this work.

Between nine and ten o'clock this evening, 11th. the enemy advanced to *Bay-side*, and set fire to the pallisadoes at that place, which burnt very freely for some time, when one of them again advanced, observing it rather decaying, put fresh fire to those that were not consumed, notwith-

1782 standing the guards in the lines and at the advanced posts, discharged their musquetry upon him : the gun and mortar-boats came over at the same time, and poured in a brisk salute of shells and shot for above two hours;—some few killed and wounded upon the occasion.

The frigates and shipping within the Boom at *New-Mole*, were this morning scuttled. The enemy are covering the roofs of the junk ships with bags, resembling our sand-bags.

12th. This morning, we perceived a great part of the pallisadoes burnt down, sufficient to admit eight men abreast. From this circumstance, we imagine they will not be long before they make the assault. From the isthmus and forts they keep a constant fire, and this morning, as I came off *Landport Guard*, crossing the *Esplanade*, I observed a soldier before me, lying on the ground, and his head somewhat raised; I ran to him, imagining the man had life, and lifted him up, when such a sight was displayed to my view, that I think I shall never forget : a twenty-six pound ball had gone through his body, and his entrails as they hung out from the orifice, were of a most disagreeable resemblance. The shot from the enemy was dropping on every side, and as I found his life was gone, I left him on the same spot, and made the best of my way to the southward. A party of men buried him soon afterwards. The floating batteries at the *Orange Grove* have been taking in stores, &c. yesterday and to-day. The other two also arrived there after a tedious passage from *Algaziras*.

Several boats have been brought out of the rivers to the *Orange Grove*; some of them seem to

to have a kind of cover, which we suppose is 1782 to shelter them from our musquetry, when Sept. they come near the shore. The wind being 12th. westerly, we shall expect the junk ships to embrace this opportunity. The enemy have erected stands or booths around the shore, lined with crimson or scarlet, where the nobles and grandees will take their seats.

A report is just circulated, that a fleet is observed in the Gut; we hope it is the *British* coming to our relief; every one seems impatient to discover their colours: a gentlemen who has been taking a view says they are *French* and *Spanish* men of war; if so, our fate is inevitable.

The fleet are now distinguishable by the naked eye; they are ships of force, under *French* and *Spanish* colours standing for the Bay. The garrison are greatly agitated and disappointed in their expectations. Will you believe me, brother, there are forty-four sail of the line, exclusive of the nine already on the station, who are now anchoring between *Algaziras* and the *Orange Grove*. If we can withstand this force, we may bid defiance to all the world. There are ten admirals flags in the fleet.

This afternoon the gun and mortar-boats came daringly on, as much as to say, “*Ye dogs surrender;*” but luckily a shot struck one of them, when she disappeared; the rest soon afterwards retired. Major *Lewis*, of the Royal Artillery, was wounded this day.

A reinforcement is ordered to *Queen's Lines*, and to the different picquets, nine of which are to take post in town.

That

1782 That our enemies may be defeated, is the
Sept. sincere and hearty wish of
12th.

Your loving Brother.

LETTER XXXVII.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

1782 TO arm! to arms! is all the cry. The ene-
Sept. my's floating batteries have weighed an-
13th. chor, and are now under sail with a fine breeze
at N. W. Their colours wanton in the wind,
with gaudy decorations for the battle, while
thousands of spectators from yon glittering shore
impatient wait to triumph in their succes.
They have now tacked with their heads to-
wards the garrison, and what is remarkable,
they work them without a man being exposed
or seen.

Half past nine o'Clock.

The floating batteries have just brought to,
between the *Old-Mole-Head* and *South Bastion*,
within eight hundred yards of the walls—a
very bold manœuvre.—Adieu! Victory or
death will crown our cause. The garrison and
floatantees are engaged—the ignivorous ap-
pearance of the Bay and Rock, cannot be de-
scribed by words.

Half

Half past Eleven at Night. 1782
Sep. 13.

Tired and fatigued, I sit down to let you know, that the conflict is over, after a stubborn and well-fought battle, by which the enemy's ships are on fire. When they came on at nine o'clock this morning, they proceeded in admirable order, successively to their different stations, and as they moored began to fire with the utmost vivacity. The cannonade on both sides soon became truly tremendous, the land batteries co-operating with the junk ships to render the attack more formidable, poured into the garrison prodigious discharges, which the artillery in their enthusiasm disregarded, and particularly directed the ordnance on these wonderful ships of destruction. Our astonishment was raised to the highest pitch, on beholding our heaviest shot rebound from their sides, and an unusual anxiety seemed to possess the mind of all ranks, when a thirteen inch shell, which dropped on the roof of the Admiral's ship, resisted penetration! About twelve o'clock the batteries were supplied with *red hot shot*, the exertions of the men employed at the guns, became more animated, and the fire was maintained with unabating firmness. The casualties of war on most of the batteries, evinced the strength of the opposition; the enemy continuing the fire in good line, and powerfully supported from the isthmus in a flanking direction. Near four hundred pieces of cannon being engaged for several hours, the superiority on either side was doubtful, until towards the evening, when the flag ship was observed to smoke considerably,

1782 bly, and the enemy's sea fire rather slacken. Sep. 13 Confusion soon after was apparent on board the *Spaniſh* ships. Our cannonade became more terrible as our spirits revived with the prospect of success, from the hope of the hot shot bringing the action to a speedy decision. The further exertions necessary to subdue these astonishing machines were truly arduous, and required fortitude and perseverance to effect. The smoke from the flag ship continued to encrease, and about seven o'clock we observed the second ship in command, in a similiar condition. The fire was then redoubled on the remaining eight, and as the night began to close, we observed with pleasure the scintillation of the balls, as they flew from our cannon. The southermost ships shortly after made signals of distress—an indistinct clamour, with piercing shrieks, was heard during the little intervals of cessation of the cannonade. The *Spaniſh* fleet detached their boats to afford assistance to the two ships on fire, several being seen along-side by the flash of the ordnance—from their situation, and the heavy and well directed fire of our artillery, they must have shared abundantly in the general havock. Having gained an advantage over the enemy, and the men at the guns being almost worn out by fatigue and the labour of the stubborn action, the Governor ordered a part to be relieved by a detachment of one hundred men from the Marine Brigade, under the command of Lieutenant *Trentbam* of the navy, leaving officers and non-commissioned officers at the different batteries, to direct the seamen in the mode of firing the hot shot.

If

If you could have peeped over the Rock and viewed our several employes, you could not ¹⁷⁸² Sep. 13 have forbore smiling; those stationed to work the guns, from the excessive heat of the day, and the dirt from the gun-powder, resembled *Ethiopians*. The sons of *Vulcan* were busy at the forges, whilst others were allotted to carry the blazing balls on an iron instrument made for that purpose, but as these did not furnish sufficient for the vast supply required at the batteries, wheel-barrows were procured, lined with wet sand, and half a dozen thirty-two pound balls thrown into each. The fatigue attending the conveyance of shot to the cannon, was very great, from the heat which issued from such large bodies of hot iron, together with wheeling the barrows up the ascent to the line wall.

What with the arduousness of the work—the warmth of the weather—the scorching heat of furnaces, forges, and piles of blazing balls, besides the clouds of smoke from the ordnance, an universal thirst prevailed, and a drink of water (which was all the allowance for the day) could scarcely be procured. It is with pleasure I inform you, that an officer* who commanded a battery, observing the men almost exhausted with drought, and feeling for their situation, took the water key from the post, proceeded to the fountain, and returned unhurt with a refreshing supply, through the enemy's intersecant fire.

During the engagement, we had the inconsolable loss of Captain *Rceves* of the Royal Artillery,

* Lieutenant Galpin, 72d regiment.

1782 tillery, killed—Captains *Grove*,—*Seward*—
Sep. 13 Lieutenant *Godfrey*, of ditto, Lieutenant *Whe-
tham*, 58th, and Captain *Alexander M'Kenzie* of
73d regiments, wounded, beside several non-
commission officers and men, killed and
wounded.

14th.

One o'Clock in the Morning.

The floating batteries have ceased firing, and
and one of them has broke out in flames from
stem to stern ; several others evince the effi-
cacy of the hot shot. The artiley continue to
direct the fire on such as do not outwardly
smoke, which they are enabled to do with the
utmost precision, by the light thrown on the
water by the flames. An officer and eleven
men floated in upon a piece of timber, being
part of a floating castle, destroyed by a shell
from the garrison, as she was steering to co-
operate with the battering ships. Brigadier
Curtis, with a detachment of seamen, has
manned our gun-boats, and drawn them up
to flank the enemy, and prevent them from
endeavouring to remove such of the ships as
are not on fire.

Day Break.

Our Bay appears a scene of horror and con-
flagration, the foe are bewailing their perilous
situation, whilst our gun-boats are busily em-
ployed in saving the unhappy victims from
surrounding flames and threatening death, al-
though the enemy from their land batteries in-
humanly discharged their ordnance upon our
tars

tars to prevent their affording them relief. 1782
 But never was bravery and humanity more Sep. 14
 conspicuous, for notwithstanding the im-
 mense danger to be apprehended from so daring
 an enterprize, yet the *British* boats generously
 steered to these flaming devourers, and drag-
 ed the sufferers from their desperate state.

Two of the enemy's boats which attempted
 to escape, were pursued by Brigadier *Curtis*,
 but only one was captured.—She surrendered
 on receiving a round of grape, which covered
 the boat and must have done mischief.

Six o'Clock.

One ship has this moment exploded, in the
 midst of our boats, who are humanely reliev-
 ing a distressed enemy. The explosion was
 grand and terrible—the wreck spread to a vast
 extent, and the concussion broke several panes
 of glass on shore. The greatest uneasiness is
 felt for the safety of Brigadier *Curtis*, and the
 boats with him.—The whole are enveloped in
 a cloud of smoke. Another of the floating
 batteries has exploded with a more tremen-
 dous noise than the first.

To hear the lamentation of the crews,
 The groans, the cries, that through the flames resound,
 Imploring our assistance from the danger
 Of fire and water—ready to devour :
 Words are too weak to give a just description !
 One of their ships blew up with dreadful noise,
 While *Curtis* grappled to her scorching sides,
 The blazing beams, the masts, the yards and carriages
 In the explosion scatter'd in the air,
 And cover'd o'er the sea with smoaking wreck.

Seven

1782
Sep. 14

Seven o'Clock.

Our anxiety for the Brigadier and men has ceased—he this moment landed at the *New Mole*, with a body of prisoners taken in the battering ships. One of our gun-boats was sunk by the explosion of the second ship, and a hole was forced through the bottom of the Brigadier's boat, by which his Coxswain was killed and another man wounded. The seamen were under the necessity of leaving numbers to their burning fate, who, terrified at their desperate condition, rent the air with their shrieks, on perceiving the *British* boats make to shore.

The description the *Spanish* prisoners give of the dreadful situation of their countrymen, left on board the junkers, with what they suffered, is unparalleled, I believe, in the annals of the sad effects of war. The boat captured by the Brigadier, had one man killed and several wounded by the round of grape, which compelled her to strike.

A remarkable instance of providence I cannot help mentioning:—A young boy on board one of the floating batteries, (which was almost in an entire blaze,) observing our boats making for shore, got upon the head, wept and cried, and in the *Spanish* tongue called for help; his entreaties prevailed, and one of our boats, notwithstanding the immense danger which threatened, rowed towards him, which he perceiving, jumped into the sea, and at that very instant the ship exploded, with the greatest part of the hands on board. The boat soon after took the boy up.

Eight

Eight o'Clock. 1782
Sep. 14

Captain *Curtis* has landed at *New Mole* about four hundred prisoners, including officers; some of them miserably wounded and scorched. As the *Spanish* officers came past a furnace at the *New Mole*, in which there was about one hundred red hot balls, and some of them melted with the excessive heat, they shrugged their shoulders, and gave a piteous groan at what their eyes beheld.

Our seamen are bringing the trophies of victory on shore, one has just landed with the royal standard of *Spain* which was intended by the foe to be hoisted on these battlements. The hills and heights were covered with spectators, when the tars began their procession, incessant shouts and repeated acclamations continued from the *Mole* to the *South Parade*, where the Governor and principal officers were congratulating each other on the occasion, to whom they carried the colours, which sensibly pleased our gallant Chief, who joined the crowd in three cheers, and presented the tars with some gold as a reward.

Each heart and soul's enflam'd with highest pleasure,
To view *Iberia's* ensigns in our hands;
While every *Briton* crowds around the standard,
To prize the grand display of glorious conquest.
Some smile—then view—caref—admire—shake hands,
And, with a heart-felt zeal, recount the battle:
King *George* and victory re-echoes round,
While *Andalusia's* shore weeps at the sound.

Nine

1782
Sep. 14

Nine o'Clock.

The prisoners are escorted to *Wind-mill Hill*, except the wounded, who are conducted to the Naval Hospital, where every care and tenderness will be shewn them: some of them really were most horrid spectacles; one in particular I cannot help mentioning, who was carried by four men on a hand-barrow—he had received a wound on his face, so that his nose and eyes seemingly were separated, hanging by a piece of skin, and the motion of the men that carried him occasioned its flapping backwards and forwards, much resembling a mask. Though he must have felt the most sensible agony, yet he looked round him with great complacency, as he passed the numerous crowds of people.

Eleven o'Clock.

Of the six ships that were on fire three have exploded. One has almost burnt to the water's edge, and the other two nearly in the same situation. The enemy's land batteries maintain their cannonade upon the garrison, spitting forth their venom'd rage, while on the opposite shore confusion and consternation visibly appears. The nobles and grandees who had assembled to view the capture of the place are withdrawing from the *Spanish* camp, to carry the direful news to *Philip's* court; but what will be his surprise, when they announce that the *all-victorious impregnable floatantes* are lost, and that flaming balls effected their ruin.

Our

One ship that was judged not to be on fire, 1782 unexpectedly burst out into flames, and soon Sep. 14 after blew up with great violence. The shock made the walls of the garrison shake.—We hoped to have saved these last two ships as trophies of our glorious success.

Our Governor, to please the soldiery and inhabitants, has directed the *Spanish* standard to be reversed and tied to a gun on the *South Parade*. It must be a galling vexation to our foes to behold their royal flag so ignobly displayed, and made the sport of a multitude.

Four o'Clock in the Afternoon.

The last battery has just exploded off the *Old Mole Head*; our red hot shot had not fired her, and it being found impracticable to warp her in here, it was judged expedient to detach a boat to set her in flames, which accordingly Captain *Gibson* effected without any injury from the land batteries.

Thus finished an action of great magnitude, a defensive victory terminated by seamen equally brave as humane.

The enemy during the day extinguished the fire, by the assistance of engines, which supplied them with a vast quantity of water, but the continual and excessive discharge of red hot balls entirely frustrated their purpose, and they were constrained to desist from the use of water, as it was found that the battering they had received opened the caulking, and let the water run between their decks, instead of the channels that were made in their sides, to receive it, so that they were apprehensive of

P their

1782 their powder being damaged. The construction of these machines was excellent; for the enemy being sensible that we should fire red-hot balls (though they did not imagine so fast, nor unless the gun was elevated) had judiciously contrived conveyances in the larboard sides, for a continual circulation of water, which was furnished by working of the engines. From the nicest calculation, the floating batteries received upwards of five thousand red-hot balls, of twenty-four and thirty-two pounds weight. Three of the floating batteries burnt to the water's edge, six blew up from the hot shot, and one we set on fire by a *pitch shirt*.

The inclosed are copies of returns, wherein you will find the strength of the garrison, the names of the flotantees, and their strength, with the number of prisoners saved by our boats; and since victory has crowned our arms, with satisfaction I conclude, being impatient for you to hear the account) and beg leave to subscribe myself,

Your loving Brother.

List of the Battering Ships, destroyed by the Red-Hot Shot, September 13th and 14th, 1782.

| | Guns. | Men |
|---|--------|-----|
| Pastora, <i>Admiral Don Morena</i> | - - 28 | 700 |
| Talla Piedra, <i>Prince of Nassau</i> | - - 28 | 700 |
| St. Francisco de Paula, <i>1st. Don Langara</i> | 26 | 700 |
| Rosario, <i>Don Francisco Munoz</i> | - - 26 | 700 |
| St. Christoval, <i>Don Frederico Gravina</i> | 18 | 600 |
| St. Francisco | | |

| | | Guns. | Men | 1782 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|-------|
| St. Francisco de Paula | 2d. D. Pablola Cosa | 9 | 366 | Sept. |
| Sta. Ana, Don Joseph Angeler | - | 10 | 350 | |
| St. Juan, Don Francisco Guicochea | - | 10 | 400 | |
| Principe Carlos, Don Joseph Topete, | - | 11 | 400 | |
| Declores, Don Antonio Bafforto | - | 6 | 280 | |
| Total | - | 172 | 5196 | |

N. B. These guns were mounted on the lar-
board side, exclusive of the number on the star-
board side.

*Prisoners taken by Captain Curtis, from the
Battering Ships.*

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|------------|----|
| Sea Officers | - | - | 3 |
| Land Officers | - | - | 3 |
| Cadets | - | - | 2 |
| Chaplains | - | - | 3 |
| Surgeon | - | - | 1 |
| Serjeants, Corporals, & Privates, | 216 | | |
| Artillerists, Land 2, Sea 5, | - | 7 | |
| Marines | - | - | 30 |
| Seamen | - | - | 81 |
| French Soldiers | - | - | 11 |
| Total | - | 357 | |

Strength of the Garrison, Rank and File, 13th
of September, 1782.*

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|-------|
| Royal Artillery | - | - | 494 |
| 12th | - | - | 458 |
| P 2 | | | 12th. |

* Including Corporals and Private Men.

THE SIEGE OF

| | | | | | |
|-------|-------------------|---|---|---|------|
| 1782 | 39th | — | — | — | 452 |
| Sept. | 56th | — | — | — | 457 |
| | 58th | — | — | — | 447 |
| | 72d | — | — | — | 793 |
| | 73d | — | — | — | 778 |
| | 97th | — | — | — | 639 |
| | Hardenberg's | — | — | — | 344 |
| | Reden's | — | — | — | 337 |
| | La Mott's | — | — | — | 348 |
| | Artificer Company | — | — | — | 84 |
| | Corsicans | — | — | — | 72 |
| | | | | | — |
| | Total | — | — | — | 5703 |

LETTER XXXVIII.

15th.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

YESTERDAY evening the enemy marched a considerable body of troops from their camp to the *Spanish* lines, prior to which the combined fleet made signal for sailing, and unmoored, by which the garrison were in expectation of an attack during the night; but the *Dons* did not renew the sport. The combined fleet remain at anchor in the Bay, with foretop-sails loose. The land batteries continue the cannonade. Lieutenant *M'Namara*, of the 72d regiment, and a few soldiers of different

ferent regiments, were wounded by the fire. 1782
We sent a flag of truce to the enemy, with Sept.
a statement for the *Duc de Crillon*, of the pri- 15th.
soners saved by the *British* gun-boats, yester-
day morning.

From the account received by the prisoners, it appears, that the floating batteries were provided with eight days provision of all kinds, with abundance of wine and brandy. The ammunition for each, was not complete on their failing, but the supply deficient was to have been forwarded after battering the Rock for twenty-four hours, provided the garrison did not surrender. The ship mounting 90 guns, had only 3000 rounds on board; the single tier ship had no guns in reserve on the starboard side; all the two tier had about twelve mounted on the starboard, and were well supplied with powder, ball, and cased grape shot. The smaller vessels drew about 19, the larger 25 feet water.

This morning, previous to the attack, an aid-de-camp to the *Duc de Crillon*, was sent on board each vessel, who after examining her condition, represented to the crew the glorious undertaking they were about to launch into, and promising in the King's name, the highest reward for their bravery. Each soldier and sailor was to be exempt from all further service, to have a gratuity of fifty dollars and full pay for the remainder of his life. The widows and children of the killed, were to enjoy the same benefit.

The combined fleet still continue at anchor, 18t and the enemy's batteries on the land side cannot forget their usual employ. This afternoon, the

1872 the grenadier company of the thirty-ninth regiment, escorted the body of a deceased *Spaniard* captain (who died of the wounds he received on the thirteenth) to the place of interment, and fired three volleys over the grave. Yesterday we received a flag of truce from *Spain*.

20th. The enemy are quiet in the Bay, and their boats for landing troops still remain at the *Orange Grove*; several men wounded by the land fire. Ten gun-boats fired about one hundred rounds on the Rock this morning.

23d. Wind W. Arrived a cutter at *Algaziras*; several of the *Spaniard* officers have been permitted to return to *Spain*.

29th. Very hot fire on both sides; a gun was dismounted this forenoon in the *Spanish* sixty-four gun battery, by a shot from the garrison. Our loss this day is, one man killed and nine wounded. Major *Horsfall*, of the 72d regiment, received a wound by the explosion of a shell. Yesterday a criminal was executed at the usual place for a burglary.—The *Spaniard* army at noon were drawn up in a line for near two hours, and covered ground to the extent of four miles.

30th. Wind W. The *Spaniard* towers this morning, displayed several colours, when the garrison attentively watched the Gut, expecting the arrival of our fleet, but to our great regret, only some neutrals appeared. Received a flag of truce from the *Orange Grove*.

Oct. 1. The enemy's gun and mortar boats came over, and fired their usual quantity of shot and shells, and then retired. Three shells fell in the Naval Hospital, but did no injury. The The

The garrison played very smartly upon them. 1782
 A *Carfican* came over in the night from *Algazi-ras*, in a boat. Oct. 1.

A frigate came over from the opposite side 4th,
 this morning, under a flag of truce, and lay
 opposite the *Old-Mole-Head*, upon which a boat
 was detached to receive her. The particulars
 are not known. The enemy continue their
 cannonade.

A flag of truce from the enemy. Twelve 6th.
 settees arrived from the east at *Algaziras*.

Two *Spaniſh* launches, under a white flag,
 came over for the purpose of taking up an anchor left by the frigate off the *New-Mole-Head* on the 4th instant, the Governor having given permission for the same. The combined fleet have not made any signal to sail, but remain spectators of the land cannonade, which is maintained on both sides. All the *Spaniſh* prisoners are gone to *Spain*, except fifty-nine, who have enlisted into the *British* service.

This afternoon, a body of troops embarked 10th.
 from the *Orange Grove* on board the men of war, from which we conjecture they are tired of the expedition, and are going to remove to some more successful part. Several signals on the tower at *Cabritta*.

Last night, wind N. W. A strong breeze 11th.
 sprung up, drove several of the enemy's line of battle ships from their moorings, which occasioned a general confusion among the combined fleet; at day-break this morning, we discovered one nearly under the *King's Bastion*, and several others within cannon shot. The *King's Bastion* began a cannonade upon her, when she finding it impossible to bear off, struck

1782 struck her colours, and ran ashore off *Ragged-Staff*, where Captain *Curtis* went, and took 11th. possession of her, and brought the crew to land. She proves to be the *San Miquel*, of 70 guns, and six hundred and fifty men, commanded by Brigadier *Don Juan Morena*. The others, with some damage and difficulty, got anchorage on the opposite side. The prisoners give an account that our fleet is off the coast, and that the troops which embarked yesterday, were a reinforcement to the different ships, as they lay upon a spring cable, determined to obstruct the entrance of the *British* squadron. We hope the storm has not been prejudicial to our fleet, as they were so near the coast, for our fate will be determined, if a relief for the place should be obstructed. Many are of opinion, that had the storm continued with the same violence for an hour longer, we should have been in possession of almost one half of their fleet.

The tower at *Cabritta*, has spread the signal alarm, but the combined fleet have not shewn any inclination to go out; three of the enemy's ships we fired at this morning, have struck their topmasts. Our batteries have been firing shells these three hours, upon a ship of the line at anchor on this side *Fort Negro*, prevented from removing from her anchorage (where necessity had compelled her to moor) on account of the violent breeze; we could not observe to have done any damage to her.

Wind W. The *Latona* frigate arrived this evening in *Rosia Bay*, with dispatches for the Governor, and gives an account that our fleet consists of thirty-four sail of the line, and a reinforce-

reinforcement of two regiments for the garrison. The enemy did not attempt to prevent her entrance. 1782. Octob. 12th.

The *British* fleet, under the command of Lord *Howe*, passed to the eastward, where they are now lying too. It is supposed this experienced Admiral chooses to have sea-room, rather than run the hazard of the *Spanish* fire-ships, which they have in readiness to run in. Came in the *Panther* of sixty-four guns, laden with powder. Several store-ships came in during the night.

The enemy's fleet still occupy the opposite side; seven of their ships are repairing the damages they received in the late storm.

GARRISON ORDERS.

The Governor is extremely happy to communicate to the garrison, the following instructions he has just received from England.

Extract from the Earl of Shelburne, principal Secretary of State.

ST. JAMES'S, 10th July, 1782.

“ I AM honoured with his Majesty’s commands, to assure you, that not any encouragement shall be wanting to the brave officers and soldiers under your command. His royal approbation of the past, will no doubt be a powerful incentive to further exertions; and I have the King’s authority to assure you, that every distinguished mark of emulation.

1782 “ emulation and gallantry, which shall be performed in the course of the siege by any, even of the lowest rank, shall meet with ample reward from his gracious protection and favour.

“ These, his Majesty’s intentions, you will communicate in the most public manner, to every part of your garrison, that they may be perfectly satisfied, that their Royal Master feels for the difficulties they are under, admires their glorious resistance, and will be happy to reward their merit.”

13th. Lord Howe’s squadron are still to the eastward, within sight of the garrison, and the combined fleet at anchor at *Algaziras*. The shipping that were damaged in the storm are not yet repaired. The guns and stores of the *San Miguel* have been taken out, to make her float.

This forenoon a frigate came round *Europa Point*, with a red flag upon her fore-top-mast head, and fired a gun to windward, as a signal of defiance; upon which the combined fleet got under weigh, and went out, consisting of forty-five sail of the line. The garrison were greatly delighted; and those whose duty did not confine them to one place, repaired to the heights and look-outs to view the engagement, but the two fleets in a short time were out of sight. Reports were then circulated, that the discharge of cannon was heard, and others, that the flash of guns were seen. One of the enemy’s ships, that came near the Rock, was fired

fired at by the garrison and *Panther*, but did 1782 not receive any material damage. The *Panther* Octob. failed to the eastward. Captain *Curtis* and the Governor's aid-de-camp, are on board her. Lieutenant *Lumley*, of the Royal Artillery, and several men, wounded this day by the land fire.

Wind E. This forenoon we discovered the 18th. *British* fleet standing from the eastward, in good order, having got the windward, and the combined fleet in full chace. An anxiety was discernable in each countenance, and every eminence was lined with spectators, who gazed with eager eyes on both fleets, expecting every minute the battle to begin. The gratification of their wishes could not be obtained, as Lord *Howe*'s squadron was too inferior to engage the enemy, while he could possibly avoid it. He therefore sent in the men of war (who had the 25th and 59th regiments on board) and the transports with provision and stores, but as soon as these two regiments were received by the boats, the men of war immediately joined the squadron, and proceeded through the Gut in three divisions, the enemy following them at about a league distance. A sensible uneasiness now prevailed for the safety of the *British* squadron; for although we had received a relief both of men and provisions, yet the situation of Lord *Howe* engaged too much of our attention, to leave room to congratulate each other on the happiness of receiving supplies; however, after both fleets were out of sight, we began to turn our eyes to our own affairs, and to listen to the adventures of our late arrived friends. They say that

THE SIEGE OF

1782 that two of our transports fell in among the Octob. combined fleet, in the night, and were captured ; but that to the eastward of the Rock the fleets had not shewn any inclination to come to action.

19th. The Bay on the other side is almost defenceless, and *Algaziras* that has of late been the grand rendezvous for shipping, has lost all its glory. The land cannonade is kept up with great vivacity, but it appears to be a folly for the besiegers still to continue the siege. We shall fight like game cocks now ; Sir *Charles Noels* succeeds Captain *Curtis* as Commodore on this station. Our shipping that were scuttled in the *New Mole*, being got up, the seamen are returning again to their usual employ, military evolutions being no longer necessary for them.

The *San Miquel* floated this day, and anchored at *New Mole*.

Nov. 4. The gun and mortar-boats visited us, without effecting any considerable damage. Some regiments have marched out of the camp of *St. Roque*. It is expected that the hearty dose we have given them, has greatly lowered their ambition, and constrained them to direct their attention to some other place. A criminal was executed this day. Yesterday was wounded Lieutenant *John M'Kenzie*, of the 72d regiment.

The 25th and 59th regiments that arrived here the 18th of October, are put on the duty strength, which will be a relief to the garrison. The *San Miquel* is in *New Mole*, where the enemy's mortar-boats have endeavoured to damage her. Yesterday they fired several rounds but without effect.

Wind

Wind W. Arrived a xebec at *Algaziras*, 1782 the enemy's shipping lay very quiet viewing Nov. our rattling batteries. It is amazing that the 20th. *Spaniards* are not tired of bombarding the place, as they cannot have any hope of taking it.

The gun and mortar-boats came over and 27th. fired at the *San Miquel*, several shells fell in the *New Mole* and about the *Mole Parade*. Some few wounded.

The enemy's fire-ships are gone into the rivers, but the boats for landing troops remain at the *Orange Grove*. The encampment on the right of *Fort Negro* has been struck some time, and the troops marched away. In all probability they have given over the thought of another attack. The land fire is continued with great spirit, by which we have many men wounded. Yesterday arrived the *Achilles* ordnance store ship from *England*.

The gun and mortar-boats came into the 7th. Bay and fired particularly about the *New Mole*, supposed to be intended for the *San Miquel*, it is a matter that vexes them to behold her in our possession, and for this reason they are constantly endeavouring to destroy her. Came in a deserter from the *Spanish* lines.

Wind S. E. A xebec and a galley standing from the eastward, having come pretty near *Europa*, we discharged three shot at them, one went through the rigging of the xebec, but was not observed to do any other damage.

Wind W. Arrived a brig in nineteen days from *Deptford*. The enemy did not offer to interrupt her. Nothing material in the Bay.

This

1782 This day a flag of truce was sent by the enemy from *Algaziras*, but the wind continuing Dec. 14th. to blow exceedingly fresh, and a great swell in the bay, we did not perceive her business until she was returning. We then sent out a boat, which waited in the Bay some hours, but no answer was made by the Spaniards.

15th. This morning we sent the flag of truce out again, but no notice was taken of it at *Algaziras*, or *Orange Grove*; after waiting upwards of two hours in the Bay, it returned unanswered to the *Mole-head*.

17th. This morning the Spaniards sent over a flag of truce, which was immediately answered from garrison. The business is not made public.

18th. About ten o'clock this forenoon, 27 gun and mortar-boats came over, and fired for near two hours, directed towards the *New-Mole*, supposed with an intention to destroy the *San Miquel*; a thirteen-inch shell dropped into her, and exploded between decks; killed four, and wounded eleven men, but did not do any material damage to the ship. Eight of the garrison gun-boats fellied out within half-gun shot of the enemy, and kept them off, while the southward batteries covered them in advancing.

22d. This morning a Spanish flag of truce brought over upwards of one hundred women and children, taken on board a transport, with the baggage belonging to the 25th and 59th regiments. The women says, the Spaniards treated them with great humanity and attention.

25th. This afternoon the enemy's gun and mortar boats, arranged in two divisions, began a cannonade and bombardment upon the garrison;

Sir

Sir *Charles Noels* immediately manned our gun boats, and headed them into the Bay, where a spirited fire was kept up for upwards of two hours. The batteries on the isthmus and lines kept pouring in a liberal discharge at the same time. The enemy threw many shells and shot on shore.

On the sea-side we are only now and then interrupted, but the land batteries keep constantly roaring. We in complaisance return the favour, nor are we any ways deficient in number. This year has finished with glorious success on our side, in gallantly repulsing our combined and determined enemies; and should they think proper to pay another visit, I hope our arms will prove equally victorious. May the new year be propitious, and establish a permanent tranquility, that we may partake of the blessings of Providence, from which we have been upwards of three years deprived.

I am, Dear Brother,

Yours &c.

END OF THE YEAR 1782.

LETTER XXXIX.

1783
Jan. 1. DEAR BROTHER,

Gibraltar.

THE new year has began, much the same as the last finished: volleys of shot and shells hourly discharged from the *Spanish* works upon the ruins of the town, by which we have sometimes a few killed and wounded. Lieutenant *Holloway*, of the Engineers, received a wound upon the *Hill Batteries*, this day.

The *Spaniards* have renewed their former vigilance in the Bay; their naval force has been distributed, some to *Cabritta-Point*, others to *Ceuta*, and a few cruizing to the eastward and westward. What hope of taking the Rock, can induce them to continue the cannonade and prevent succours from arriving.

4th. This afternoon a squadron of gun-boats to the number of thirty-two, with a few mortar-boats, came over from *Algaziras*, and fired for about an hour and a half, chiefly directed to the *New Mole*.

Our gun-boats were quickly manned by the tars, and fired with great spirit and good effect, the land batteries co-operating with them. One of the *Spanish* gun-boats was sunk by a shell from the garrison, when the *Dons* considered a removal necessary.

5th. Wind W. This forenoon a signal was made on the tower at *Cabritta Point*, when two gallies went out from *Algaziras*. A sail appeared under the *Barbary* shore; the gallies soon stretched

stretched across, and fired two shots, when she ¹⁷⁸³ surrendered to the *Dons*; she appeared but a small settee. The gun and mortar boats visited us, but happily no lives were lost—two soldiers lost their legs by their fire.

Between five and six o'clock this morning, 10th. the *Spanish* gun and mortar-boats came over and fired, as usual, towards the *New Mole*. Several of the shot and shells fell upon the red sands, where the men were paraded for guard. The Governor to divert their attention from the danger, walked through the ranks, conversing with the soldiery, while the Town-Major formed the different guards, which are mounted by detachments from each regiment. A few accidents happened in the garrison, but not one person killed.

This being the anniversary of Her Majesty's 18th: birth day, the royal standard was hoisted, and a *salvo* fired at the enemy's works, with shot. The *Spaniards* made a very quick and spirited return. All quiet in the Bay.

Wind E. Last night arrived a settee from ^{25th} *Tetuan*, with poultry the price of which is greatly enhanced. They bring word, that the court of *Spain* are greatly, dissatisfied with the length and ill success of the siege. This forenoon a soldier was hanged for theft, and died with little emotion.

The gun and mortar-boats continue their ^{26th} firing from the Bay. They discharged under a heavy cannonade from the garrison, between two and three hundred rounds, and then retired.—Some soldiers at the southward, wounded.

Q

This

1783 This morning the *Brilliant* frigate, hauled
Jan. 29 out of *New Mole*, and anchored in *Rosia Bay*.

This afternoon thirteen mortar and sixteen gun-boats came over, and began an attack about five o'clock. Our gun-boats went into the Bay to meet them, and gave them a spirited reception, the *Brilliant* frigate, and garrison co-operating. The enemy killed two men and wounded fourteen before they retreated. Second Lieutenant *Raffalio*, of the *Corsican* Company, was wounded. We fired some red hot shot from elevated guns, which reached the *Spanish* camp.

30th. Four gun-boats came over this morning, and fired six rounds of shot at the *Brilliant* frigate. The garrison fired a few shells which burst in the air, over the gun-boats, which made them quit their pastime. The *Spaniards* have not ceased their land cannonade, which at best is but a wasteful expenditure of their ammunition, as the town being destroyed, that object can no longer excite their attention.

I am, dear Brother,

Your's, &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R XL.

Gibraltar.

DEAR BROTHER,

THIS morning we received (by a flag of truce) intelligence of the most joyful and enlivening nature, which for some time, belief appeared doubtful; but after a few hours suspense, we had the happiness of being in possession of the particulars, brought by the *Spanish* flag boat. The *Duc de Crillon* has sent his compliments to General *Elliott*, acquainting him that the different courts had agreed upon a cessation of hostilities, and that the preliminary articles of peace would shortly be signed. The garrison, enraptured with the sound, spread the harmonious tidings, and in the evening all firing ceased on our side, agreeable to an order sent by his Excellency the Governor to the different posts. The enemy's cannonade became silent in the afternoon.— During the night we fired a few light balls in the isthmus, to discover the situation of the enemy.

I scarce know how to begin upon a subject so truly interesting and captivating. Our situation is changed from noise and confusion, to calm serenity. The atmosphere that was continually disturbed with flames and smoke, is now illuminated with variegated brightness; the stars that have been so long eclipsed, now shine with their wonted splendor; and the bespangled rays of *Aurora*, with resplendent lustre again adorn each hill and height, that for upwards of eighteen months, has only been

1783 Feb. 3. distinguishable by the flashing of pieces of ordnance. Our sudden change from war to peace, the tranquility that presides over the battered Rock, and *Andaluzian* shore, so powerfully affects all ranks in the garrison, that to give you the delineation, would be a task for an able writer. The power of oratory, the most persuasive eloquence, would fall infinitely short in describing our happiness and amazement. Will you believe me in asserting, that every post last night appeared peculiarly solitary, by the silence which all around prevailed, and the hours of slumber seemed uneasy, for want of that martial noise, to which we have been so long accustomed.

I shall now proceed to give you some account concerning the effect upon our late determined antagonists, who seem highly to participate in the blessings of peace.

They appeared in crowds this morning upon the isthmus works, evincing every demonstration of the most heart-felt and lively joy, sending forth unfeigned and rapturous congratulations. The long wished-for sound of peace, re-echoes from shore to shore, from hill to hill, from rock to rock, and every tongue is filled with the blissful melody. The *Spanish* officers at noon came underneath our lines, bowing to the guards, assuring them that an amicable peace had actually taken place.

Our Governor has not made any reduction in the number of the guards, not knowing how far the stratagems of war might operate, but waits until the royal declaration arrives from *England*, when every testimonial will be made as a thanksgiving to our great

Creator,

Creator, for the restoration of the invaluable 1783
and inestimable blessings of peace. Feb. 3.

Arrived a flag of truce from *Orange Grove* ;
says that the articles of peace are signed.

Arrived a flag of truce with letters from *Duc de Crillon*, specifying the orders received from *Madrid*, to withdraw the troops and cruizers. 5th.

Received another flag of truce with a bag of letters. This forenoon a vessel belonging to Merchant *Lynch*, sailed out of the *Mole*, and proceeded past *Cabritta* unmolested. The *Spaniards* are withdrawing their stores from the lines. 6th.

An aid-de-camp to the Governor, went out by land, and dined with a *Spanish* officer in the camp ;—in the evening he returned. 8th.

Arrived the General *Howe* ordnance store-ship, and three small vessels from *Portugal* ;—they heard nothing of the peace. 9th.

A *Spanish* boat this morning came over from *Orange Grove*, with sheep, fowls, and eggs. The Governor ordered them to sell their goods immediately, and depart. 13th.

This day we received a parley from the lines, with a confirmation of the peace. 20th.

This day arrived Sir *Roger Curtis*, in the March *Thetis* frigate, with the preliminary articles of peace, and a ribbon the order of the Bath, for his Excellency General *George Augustus Elliott*. 10th.

I enclose you the following Returns of killed, wounded, &c. which you may depend upon being correct ; and I hope in a short time personally to assure you, that

I am, Dear Brother,

Sincerely Yours,

THE SIEGE OF

RETURN

Of the Killed and Wounded in the undermentioned Regiments,

From the 12th of April, 1781,—the Day the Bombardment commenced, to the 3d of February, 1783.

| Regiments | Killed. | | | Wounded. | | | Died of Wounds. | | | Recovered of wounds. | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|----------|----------------------|-----------|----------|
| | Officers | Sergeants | Drummers | Officers | Sergeants | Drummers | Officers | Sergeants | Drummers | Officers | Sergeants | Drummers |
| | Rank & File | | | | Rank & File | | | | | Rank & File | | |
| Roy. Arti. | 2 | 1 | 0 | 44 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 126 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 109 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 39 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 71 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 56 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 72 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 58 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 73 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 59 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 72 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 3 | 15 | 1 | 178 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 18 |
| 73 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 125 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 17 |
| 97 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 51 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Reden's | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| La Mott's | 0 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40 |
| Syдов's | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Artificers | c | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 |
| Marine Bri. | c | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 26 |
| Corficans. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 519 | 3193 | 3662 | 171013 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 195 | 3556 | 16918 | | |

RETURN

R E T U R N

Of the Enemy's firing against the Garrison.

| | Shot. | Shells. | Total. |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1781, From 12th April, to 31st Dec. | 100841 | 29296 | 130137 |
| 1782, From 1st Jan. to 31st Dec. | 73792 | 38239 | 112031 |
| 1783, From 1st Jan. to 3d Feb. | 1423 | 825 | 1947 |
| Total Land Fire | 175755 | 68360 | 244115 |
| Fired from their Gun and Mortar Boats | 6775 | 7498 | 14273 |
| Total | 182530 | 75858 | 258388 |

Expended by the Garrison, from 12th September, 1779, to the 3d of February, 1783.

| | Barrels. | lb. | oz. |
|--------------|----------------|-----|-----|
| Powder | 7651 | 160 | 15 |
| Shells | 129,370 | | |
| Shot | 57,160 | | |
| Grape | 12,684 | | |
| Carcasses | 926 | | |
| Light Balls | 689 | | |
| Total | 200,829 | | |

-GIBRALTAR,

GIBRALTAR, 23d April, 1783.

The Garrison being drawn up, conformable to the Orders for this Day, General Elliott addressed the Troops in the following Manner, previous to his being invested with the Order of the Bath.

GENTLEMEN,

“ I HAVE assembled you this day, in order that the officers and soldiers may receive, in the most public manner, an authentic declaration transmitted to me by the Secretary of State, expressing the high sense his Majesty entertains of your meritorious conduct in the defence of this Garrison.

“ The King’s satisfaction upon this event was soon divulged to all the world, by his most gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament.

“ The House of Lords and the House of Commons, not only made the suitable professions in their address to the Throne, but have severally enjoined me to communicate their unanimous thanks by the following resolutions.*

“ No.

* *House of Lords, 13th Dec. 1782.*

“ Resolved, *Nemine Diffidente*, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, That this House doth highly approve of, and acknowledge the services of the officers, soldiers, and sailors, lately employed in the Defence of Gibraltar.”

House of Commons, 12th Dec. 1782.

“ Resolved, *Nemine Contradicente*; That the thanks of this House be given to the officers, soldiers, and sailors, lately employed in the Defence of Gibraltar.”

“ No army has ever been rewarded by
 “ higher national honours, and it is well
 “ known how great, universal, and sponta-
 “ neous were the rejoicings throughout the
 “ kingdom upon the news of your success:—
 “ these must not only give you inexpressible
 “ pleasure, but afford matter of triumph to
 “ your dearest friends and latest posterity. As
 “ further proof how just your title is to such
 “ flattering distinction at home, rest assured
 “ from undoubted authority, that the nations
 “ of Europe, and other parts are struck with
 “ admiration of your gallant behaviour, even
 “ our late resolute, and determined antago-
 “ nists, do not scruple to bestow the commen-
 “ dations due to such valour and perseve-
 “ rance.

“ I now most warmly congratulate you
 “ on these united and brilliant testimonies of
 “ approbation; amidst such numerous, such
 “ exalted tokens of applause, forgive me,
 “ faithful companions, if I humbly crave your
 “ acceptance of my grateful acknowledgments.

“ I only presume to ask this favour, as
 “ having been a constant witness of your sub-
 “ mission to the greatest hardships—your
 “ matchless spirit and exertions, and on all
 “ occasions your heroic contempt of every
 “ danger.”

Estimate

THE SIEGE OF

*Estimate of the various Articles, and their Average prices,
during the Blockade and Siege of Gibraltar, from 21st June
1779, to 3d February, 1783.*

Exchange at 39d. the dollar, being the Average upon the whole.

| | Gib. cur. | Eng. sterl. |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| | dls. rls. qs. | l. s. d. |
| Veal, per pound | 1 4 0 | 0 4 10h |
| A calve's head and feet | 10 4 0 | 1 14 1h |
| A calve's pluck | 4 4 0 | 0 14 7h |
| Mutton, per pound | 1 4 0 | 0 4 10h |
| A sheep's* 5th and hind q. sold for | 48 0 0 | 7 10 0 |
| A sheep's head and feet | 4 4 0 | 0 14 7h |
| A sheep's pluck | 2 4 0 | 0 8 1h |
| Beef, per pound | 1 4 0 | 0 4 10h |
| A bullock's head without a tongue | 7 4 0 | 1 3 4h |
| A bullock's tongue | 2 4 0 | 0 8 1h |
| A bullock's liver, per lb. | 0 3 0 | 0 1 3 |
| Fresh tripe, per lb. | 1 0 0 | 0 3 3 |
| Salt beef, per lb. | 0 3 0 | 0 1 3 |
| Salt pork, per lb. | 0 3 0 | 0 1 3 |
| Fresh pork, per lb. | 1 0 0 | 0 3 3 |
| A hog's pluck | 4 4 0 | 0 14 7h |
| Goat, per lb. | 1 2 0 | 0 4 1 |
| A goat's pluck | 2 0 0 | 0 6 6 |
| A goat's head | 2 4 0 | 0 8 1h |
| A turkey | 15 0 0 | 2 8 9 |
| A goose | 9 0 0 | 1 10 4 |
| A couple of ducks | 6 6 0 | 1 1 11h |
| A pair of fowls | 6 6 c | 1 1 11h |
| A pair of pigeons | 3 0 0 | 0 9 9 |
| Flour, per lb. | 0 3 0 | 0 1 3 |
| Bread, per lb. | 0 4 0 | 0 1 7h |
| Salt Butter, per lb. | 1 4 0 | 0 4 10h |
| Cheese, per lb. | 1 4 0 | 0 4 10h |
| Rice, per lb. | 0 3 0 | 0 1 3 |
| Loaf Sugar, per lb. | 0 3 0 | 0 7 1 |
| Tea, per lb. | 14 0 0 | 2 5 6 |
| Common Candles, per lb. | 0 6 0 | 0 2 5 |
| A hen's egg | 0 1 8 | 0 0 7h |
| A pint of milk | 0 3 0 | 0 1 3 |
| Potatoes, per lb. | 0 6 0 | 0 2 5 |
| Onions, per lb. | 0 6 0 | 0 2 5 |

* A fifth signifies the tail, which is as large as any one of the quarters.—This occasions their being called Five-Quarter Sheep.—Their growth is but small.

A SHORT
H I S T O R Y
A N D

DESCRIPTION of GIBRALTAR.

THE first name by which this mountain was known was that of *Mons Calpe*, and it continued to be so called till the incursions of the *Arabs* in the year 713. It is not my intention to explore the dark history of this famous Rock ; it is buried in obscurity, or involved in doubt. Historians say, that it was possessed by the *Scythians* at the first settlement of that country. When the all-conquering *Romans* reduced *Iberia*, this mountain afforded a temporary asylum to the *Bæticans* ; but their resistance was vain, and a *Roman* settlement was made to the west of *Calpe*, which bore the name of *Julia Traducta*. The *Carthaginians* seized on all *Bætica*, but it was recovered by *Lucius Licinius Lucullus*, and *Calpe* remained in the possession of the *Romans* until they were ultimately driven out of all *Spain* by the *Wes- trogoths* in 568. A domestic quarrel introduced the *Arabs* into *Spain* in the year 713. The mountain then obtained the name of *Jibal Tarik*, or *Tarik's Mountain*, *Tarik* being the chief under whom the incursion was made ; this

THE SIEGE OF

this is declared to be the origin of the name, which by corruption of sound and orthography, is now *Gibraltar*.

It has undergone no fewer than thirteen sieges.

In 1310 *Alonzo Perez de Guzman* first took it from the *Infidels*, which so enraged them, that that they murdered their king, *Mahomet*.

The second siege was in 1316, when *Ismael*, king of *Grenada*, in vain attempted to retake it.

The third commenced in February 1332, under *Abamelique*, when the *Spaniards*, after enduring almost intolerable fatigue, and subsisting for weeks on the leather of their shields, were starved into a surrender in the middle of June.

The fourth siege was begun by *Don Alonzo XI.* in the end of the same month, he having been within four days march of the place on its surrender. This investment was attended with uncommon circumstances of hardship, both to the besieged and besiegers: the latter were blocked up in the neck of *Gibraltar* by the king of *Grenada* and *Abamelique*, who marched with an army to the relief of the garrison. At last, on the 20th of August a peace was concluded, and the siege was raised.

Don Alonzo again set down before it in the summer, 1349, and during this, which was the fifth siege, and which continued for nine months, the garrison was reduced to great straits; but *Don Alonzo* was carried off by the plague in March, 1350.

The Emperors of *Fez* neglecting their *Spanish* territories, *Fuzal*, third king of *Grenada*, took

took it in 1410. This was the sixth siege, but the next year the inhabitants drove out the conquerors, and put themselves under the protection of *Muley Beuld*, Emperor of *Fez*.

Juzaf besieged it in form the January following with a fleet and army, and the garrison was starved into a surrender.—This was the seventh siege.

The eighth siege was in 1438, when *Don Enique de Guzman* attacked it with a strong force, but was defeated by the *Moors*, and drowned. His son, however, brought off the remains of his army.

In 1462, the son returned with greater force, and took the place, which ever since has remained in possession of the christians.—This was the ninth siege.

The tenth was in 1704, when it was torn from the *Spaniards* by the *English*, under the command of *Sir George Rooke*.*

The *Spaniards* were sorely hurt with the loss of this most important station. They knew its consequence, and, added to the value conferred by its strength and situation, the circumstance

* The Prince of *Hesse* had landed on the isthmus with eighteen hundred men, but the steepness of the Rock made an attack on that side impracticable. The *British* fleet fired upwards of 15000 shots, without effecting a surrender, when a body of sailors, on the 4th of August, in a merry-making excursion, happened to row close under the *New Mole* in their boats, (the cannon of which must have sunk them had any been fired,) were encouraged to attempt landing; and being successful, they mounted the *Mole*, and hoisted a red jacket as a signal of possession. Boats, with troops and seamen, were immediately detached to shore, and in a short time they got possession of the eight gun battery in the *Line Wall*, which caused the town to surrender.

cumstance of giving to an ancient enemy such a footing in the kingdom, was a mortification which the proud spirit of the *Spaniards* could not bear. An expedition was immediately formed, and the eleventh siege commenced under the *Marquis de Villadarius*. The siege lasted four months ; and finding all their efforts, though vigorous, were vain, it was abandoned in 1705.

Great Britain, fully sensible of its importance, hath maintained it at an immense cost, and hath taken such advantage of its natural powers in disposing the works that have been raised, as to make it indubitable the strongest fortification in the universe. *Spain* has observed this conduct with unavailing regret. The recovery of this post has at one time given them subject for declaring a war, and at another time has been claimed as the price of peace. They ceded it at the peace of *Utrecht* without grace, for they stipulated for a right of pre-exemption in case *Great Britain* should dispose of it. Many negotiations were opened ; many offers of purchase, and of places to be exchanged for it ; but all were fruitless. The *English* nation were justly jealous of the treasure, and if at one time ministers were disposed or were cajoled to squander it by negotiation, the bargain was prevented by the vigilance of parliament, and the spirit of the people. It was made the subject of warm discussion in the Lower House in the year 1727. These secret manœuvres proving abortive, the *Spaniards* sat down before *Gibraltar* on the 13th of February, in 1727 ; but this, which was the 12th siege, and under the conduct of the

Marquis

Marquis de la *Torras*, was like the former, spirited and fruitless.

The thirteenth siege was begun in 1779, and continued incessantly until 1783, a period of almost four years. On the first investment, Admiral *Don Barcello* blocked the port by sea, and General *Don Juan de Mendoza*, cut off the communication by land. A short time after, he was recalled for particular reasons, and General *Alvery* appointed, who governed until the *Duc de Crillion* arrived from *Minorca* (after its capture) when he was invested with the command, and continued in it till the conclusion of the siege. The garrison have, by their perseverance, presented to Europe a picture of the most gallant defence. They have resisted the efforts of the most numerous and best equipped band of besiegers that, perhaps, ever beset any fortress. The *Spaniards* have bent every endeavour to this single object. They have starved their marine, and neglected their power in every other quarter of the globe, that they might employ all their resources, and direct all their attention to this great end. Their works have been immense, their industry indefatigable. They have endeavoured to accomplish its reduction by the constancy of their attack; by their numbers they have been able to make their operations incessant, that the garrison might have no relaxation from fatigue, no opportunity for repose. All their struggles, however, have been vain. The garrison was annually relieved with provisions, though the want of store-houses tended greatly to make it uneatable; and when they rushed on confident of victory, had the glory to gain

THE SIEGE OF

gain immortal renown, by repulsing so superior a force, under the immediate eye of the principal personages, nobles, and grandes of *Spain*, who had assembled to view the capture of the important fortress.

MEMOIRS

MEMOIRS of the LIFE and MILITARY
SERVICES of General Sir GEORGE AU-
GUSTUS ELIOTT.

SIR *George Augustus Elliott*, the brave and gallant defender of *Gibraltar*, is the son of the late Sir *Gilbert Elliott* of *Stobbs*, in *Roxburghshire*. The antient and honourable family of *Elliott of Stobbs*, as well as the collateral branch of *Elliott of Minto*, in the same county, and of *Elliott of Port Elliott*, in *Cornwall*, are originally from *Normandy*. Their ancestor, Mr. *Aliott*, came over with *William the Conqueror*, and held a distinguished rank in his army. There is a traditionary anecdote in the family relating to an honourable distinction in their coat of arms, which, as it corresponds with history bears the appearance of truth. When *William* set foot on the *English* land, he slipped and fell on the earth. He sprang up again and exclaimed, that it was a happy omen—he had embraced the country of which he was to become Lord. Upon this *Aliot* drew his sword, and swore by the honour of a soldier, that he would maintain, at the hazard of his blood, the right of his Lord to the sovereignty of the earth which he had embraced. On the event of conquest, King *William* added to the arms of *Aliot*, which was a baton, or, on a field azure, and the arm and sword, as a crest, with the motto, *per saxa, per ignes, fortiter, et recte*. We mention this as a curious fact delivered down and recorded as a memorial of their antiquity.

Sir *Gilbert Elliott* of *Stobbs*, had nine sons and two daughters. The present Gen. *Elliott* is the youngest son, and he is now the only

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surviving one. His eldest son, Sir *John Elliott*, left the title and estate to his son, the present Sir *Francis Elliott*, who is therefore nephew to the General.

Sir *George Augustus Elliott* was born about the year 1718, and received the first rudiments of his education under a private tutor retained at the family seat. At an early age he was sent to the University of *Leyden*, where he made a rapid progress in classical learning, and spoke with elegance and fluency the *German* and *French* languages. Being designed for a military life, he was sent from thence to the celebrated *Ecole Royale du genie militaire*, at *La Fere* in *Picardy*. This school was rendered the most famous in *Europe* by means of the great *Vauban*, under whom it was conducted. It is now under the management and care of the Comte *d'Horroville*. Here it was that the foundation was laid of that knowledge of tactics in all its branches, and particularly in the arts of engineering and fortification, which has so greatly distinguished this officer since. He completed his military course on the continent by a tour, for the purpose of seeing in practice what he had been studying in theory. *Prussia* was the model for discipline, and he continued for some time as a volunteer in that service. Such were the steps taken by the young men of fashion in that day to accomplish themselves for the service of their country. Many of his contemporaries were then firmly engaged, nobly abandoning the enjoyment of ease and luxury at home, for the opportunity of seeing actual service.

Mr.

Mr. Elliott returned in the 17th year of his age, to his native country of *Scotland*, and was in the same year, 1735, introduced by his father, Sir Gilbert, to Lieut. Col. Peers of the 23d regiment of foot, or Royal Welch Fuzileers, then lying in *Edinburgh*. Sir Gilbert presented him a youth anxious to bear arms for his King and country. He was accordingly entered a volunteer in that regiment, and continued for a twelve-month or more. At this time he gave a promise of his future military talents, and shewed at least that he was a soldier *au cœur*. From the 23d he went into the engineer corps at *Woolwich*, and made great progress in that study, until his uncle, Col. Elliott, brought him in as Adjutant of the second troop of horse grenadiers. In this situation he conducted himself with the most exemplary attention, and laid the foundation of that discipline which has rendered those two troops the finest corps of heavy cavalry in *Europe*, the *Hanoverian* body guards, and the musqueteers of *France* not excepted. With these troops he went upon service to *Germany* in the war before last, and was with them in a variety of actions. At the battle of *Dettingen* he was wounded. In this corps he first bought the rank of Captain and Major, and afterwards purchased the Lieutenant Colonely from Col. *Brewerton*, who succeeded his uncle. On arriving at this rank he resigned his commission as an engineer, which he had enjoyed along with his other rank, and in which service he had been actively employed very much to the service of his country. He had received the instructions of the famous engineer *Bellidor*,

and made himself compleatly master of the science of gunnery. Had he not disinterestedly resigned his rank in the engineer department, he would now, by regular progression, have been at the head of that corps. Soon after this he was appointed an Aid-de-camp to King *George II.* and was already distinguished for his military skill and discipline. In the year 1759 he quitted the second troop of horse grenadier guards, being selected to raise, form, and discipline the first regiment of light horse, called after him, *Elliott's*. As soon as they were raised and formed, he was appointed to the command of the cavalry in the expedition on the coasts of *France*, with the rank of Brigadier-General. After this he passed into *Germany*, where he was employed on the staff, and greatly distinguished himself in a variety of movements, while his regiment displayed a strictness of discipline, activity, and enterprize, which gained them signal honour ; and indeed they have been the pattern regiment; both in regard to discipline and appointment, to the many light dragoon troops that have, since that period, been raised in our service. From *Germany* he was recalled for the purpose of being employed as second in command in the memorable expedition against the *Havaannah*. It was possible to find an officer in the sunshine of the court to whom, under the patronage of a Prince, the trappings of the chief command might be given ; but an *Elliott* was wanting to act, as well as an *Albemarle* to shine, and for him they were forced to go to the dusty plains of *Germany*. The circumstances of that conquest are well known. It seems as if

if our brave veteran had always in his eye the gallant *Lewis de Velasco*, who maintained his station to the last extremity, and when his garrison were flying from his side, or falling at his feet, disdained to call for quarter, but fell gloriously exercising his sword upon his conquerors.

Our readers will pardon us for the recital of a short anecdote, which occurred immediately after the reduction, as it shews, that in the very heat and outrages of war, the General was not unmindful of the rights of humanity. He was particularly eminent among the conquerors of the *Havannah*, for his disinterested procedure, and for checking the horrors of indiscriminate plunder. To him, therefore, appeals were most frequently made. A Frenchman who had suffered greatly by the depredations of the soldiery, made application to him, and begged, in bad *English*, that he would interfere to have his property restored. The petitioner's wife, who was present, a woman of great spirit, was angry at the husband for his intercession, and said, *Comment pouvez-vous demander du grace a un homme qui vient vous depouiller? N'en esperez pas.* The husband persisting in his application, his wife grew more loud in the censure, and said, *vous n'etes pas Francois!* The General who was busy writing at the time, turned to the woman, and said, smiling, *Madame ne vous, echauffez pas, ce que votre mari demande lui sera accorde!* *Oh faut-il pour surcroit de malheur,* exclaimed the woman, *que le barbare parle le Francois.* The General was so very much pleased with the woman's spirit, that he not only procured them their property

property again, but also took pains to accommodate them in every respect. This has been through life the manly characteristic of the General. If he would not suffer his troops to extend for the sake of plunder (the ravages of war) he never impoverished them by unjust exactions. He never would consent that his Quarter-Master's place should be sold, " not " only, says he, " because I think it the re- " ward of an honest veteran soldier ; but also, " because I could not so directly exercise my " authority in his dismission, should he behave " ill."

On the peace, his gallant regiment was reviewed by his Majesty in *Hyde Park*, when they presented to the King the standards they had taken from the enemy. The King gratified with their high character, asked General *Elliott*, what mark of his favour he could bestow on his regiment equal to their merits. He answered, that his regiment would be proud if his Majesty should think, that, by their services, they were entitled to the distinction of *Royals*. It was accordingly made a royal regiment, with this flattering title. *The 15th or King's Royal Regiment of Light Dragoons*. At the same time, the King expressed a desire to confer a mark of his favour on the brave General ; but he declared, that the honour and satisfaction of his Majesty's approbation of his services was his best reward.

During the peace he was not idle :—his great talents in the curious branches of the military arts, gave him ample employment ; and in the year 1775, he was appointed to succeed General *A'Court* as Commander in Chief of the

the forces in *Ireland*. But he did not continue long in this station ; not even long enough to unpack all his trunks ; for, finding that interferences were made by petty authority derogatory to his own, he resisted the practice with becoming spirit ; and not chusing to disturb the government of the sister kingdom, on a matter personal to himself, he solicited to be recalled, and accordingly was so, when he was appointed to the command of *Gibraltar*, in a fortunate hour for the safety of that important fortress. The system of his life, as well as his education, peculiarly qualified him for this trust. He is, perhaps, the most abstemious man of the age. His food is vegetables, and his drink water. He neither indulges himself in animal food nor wine. He never sleeps more than four hours at a time ; so that he is up later and earlier than most other men. He has so inured himself to habits of hardiness, that the things which are difficult and painful to other men, are to him his daily practice, and are rendered pleasant by use. It could not be easy to starve such a man into a surrender, nor easy to surprize him. His wants are easily supplied, and his watchfulness beyond precedent. The example of the Commander in Chief in a besieged garrison, has a most persuasive efficacy in forming the manners of the soldiery. Like him, his brave followers came to regulate their lives by the most strict rules of discipline before there arose a necessity for so doing ; and severe exercise, with short diet, became habitual to them by their own choice. The military system of discipline which he introduced, and the preparations he made for his

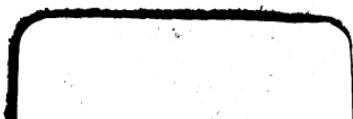
his defence. were contrived with so much judgment, and executed with so much address that he has been able, with a handful of men to preserve his post against an attack, the constancy of which, even without the vigour, has been sufficient to exhaust any set of men. Collected within himself, he has in no instance destroyed, by premature attacks, the labour which would cost the enemy time, patience, and expence to compleat ; he has never spent his ammunition in useleſs parade, or in unimportant attacks. He has never relaxed from his discipline by the appearance of security, nor hazarded the lives of his garrison by wild experiments. By a cool and temperate demeanour he maintained his station for four years of constant investment, in which all the powers of *Spain* were employed. All the eyes of *Europe* has been on his garrison, and his conduct has justly exalted him to a most elevated place in the military annals of the present day.

The General married a sister of the present Sir *Francis Drake*, and by her has had a son and a daughter. The son is now Lieut. Colonel of the 6th (or Inniskilling) regiment of dragoons, and the daughter is married to Mr. *Fuller*, of *Bayly Park* in *Suffex*.

His Majesty was graciously pleased in addition to the order of the Bath, to create him a Baron of *England* by the title of Lord *Heathfield*, which he enjoyed but a short time, being ordered at the late armament against *Spain* to proceed to *Gibraltar*, he died on his passage.

F I N I S.





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